# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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# K'taka govt introduces Hate Speech Bill in Assembly

As per the Bill, making 'hate speech' or circulating it will amount to 'hate crime', which will attract a minimum jail of 1 year, with a fine of Rs 50,000

**Key Provisions of the Hate Speech Regulation Bill**

- The Bill aims to prevent the dissemination, publication, or promotion of hate speech.
- It seeks to curb crimes that incite hatred against specific individuals, groups, or organizations.
- Cases under this Bill are non-bailable.
- Hate speech cases will be tried by a First-Class Judicial Magistrate.
- Any police officer of rank not below Executive Magistrate or Deputy Superintendent of Police can register and investigate complaints under this law.
- Both registered and unregistered organizations involved in hate speech can be held accountable.
- The Bill empowers authorities to block or remove online content containing hate speech from domains or platforms.

**BELAGAVI**

The Karnataka government on Wednesday introduced the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, in the Assembly, prompting vocal resistance from BJP legislators. Home Minister G. Parameshwara presented the Bill, while Speaker U.T. Khader sought voice votes. BJP members shouted "nay," with MLA V. Sunil Kumar demanding a division of votes, but the Speaker permitted the Bill to be tabled.

The BJP's reaction signalled its intention either to oppose the Bill outright or push for its referral to a select committee.

Under the proposed law, delivering or circulating hate speech will be treated as a hate crime, carrying a minimum one-year jail term, extendable up to seven years, along with a ₹50,000 fine. Repeat offenders may face two to ten years of imprisonment and a fine of ₹1 lakh.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar later told reporters that preventing hate speech was part of the government's core agenda, stressing the need to uphold peace and law and order across the state.

**BJP rakes up power tussle issue in Assembly**

**Belagavi:** The power tussle between Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar came under the spotlight in the Assembly on Wednesday when Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka raised concerns over political uncertainty affecting state development. Concluding his debate on North Karnataka, Ashoka argued that strong, decisive leadership was essential for progress, and unresolved leadership issues were hindering growth across the region. Ashoka also criticized Siddaramaiah for failing to deliver on North Karnataka promises.

## Horatti corruption allegations spark debate in Council

**BENGALURU**

Allegations of corruption against Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti surfaced during a question-and-answer session, with Congress member Nagaraj Yadav raising serious concerns. Yadav claimed Horatti was not fit to occupy the chairman's post. JDS legislator Bhojegowda highlighted Yadav's grave claims, including a circulating video accusing the chair of graft and deeming Horatti unfit for the role. He urged a house discussion to uphold the position's dignity. Congress's Hariprasad condemned such accusations against presiding officers, citing past instances. BJP's CT Ravi decried it as character assassination and mental harassment, noting alternatives like no-confidence motions exist.

# Shah refutes 'vote chori' claims, Rahul challenges him to debate

**NEW DELHI**

During a heated discussion on electoral reforms in the Lok Sabha, Union Home Minister Amit Shah firmly rebutted allegations of "vote chori" raised by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Shah criticized the Opposition for questioning the integrity of the voter list and the Summary Revision (SIR) process, calling such claims double standards. He emphasized that SIR, conducted under the Election Commission, ensures clean electoral rolls and is not under government control.

Shah alleged that the first instance of "vote chori" took place immediately after Independence. "Post Independence, Sardar Patel was backed by 28 persons, Jawahar Lal Nehru by two persons; yet Nehru became PM, this was vote choir." He pointed out that the Congress often blames EVMs, electoral rolls, or the EC for losses instead of leadership issues.

Rahul Gandhi, intervening, challenged Shah to a debate on his press conferences, signaling a direct confrontation. Congress MPs, including KC Venugopal, contested Shah's claims regarding Sonia Gandhi, noting ongoing legal proceedings and emphasizing factual accuracy.

> **We want to remove all illegal immigrants from this country. Opposition can boycott Parliament, but we will ensure that no illegal immigrant remains in the voter list. Opposition raised the issue of SIR to keep illegal immigrants in voter lists.**
>
> —Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

Shah defended SIR, highlighting its role since 1952 in maintaining fair elections and removing ineligible voters, including deceased individuals and foreign nationals. He asserted that the Opposition's campaign against the process undermines democracy, and stressed that BJP's electoral successes reflect the elimination of corrupt practices.

Opposition MPs on Wednesday staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha amid Union Home Minister Amit Shah's reply to the discussion on electoral reforms in the House.

### *Prasad warns paper ballots could lead to booth capturing*

BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad defended the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in Parliament on Wednesday, rejecting opposition demands to revert to paper ballots. He warned that returning to ballot papers would revive booth capturing, undermining election integrity. Citing over two dozen Supreme Court and high court judgments, Prasad said EVMs are legally validated, and attempts to hack them in the Election Commission's presence have failed.

### *Rahul submits dissent note on CIC appointment*

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, reportedly submitted a dissent note after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC). The discussion took place in the PM's Chamber at Parliament and lasted approximately 90 minutes.

## Imam's speeches admissible as evidence: Police to Supreme Court

**NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Police on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that activist Sharjeel Imam's speeches can be attributed to other accused and can be used as evidence against them in the February 2020 Delhi riots. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, submitted before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria that all participants are liable for each other's acts in a conspiracy. "Acts of one conspirator can be attributed to others. Sharjeel Imam's speeches can be attributed to Umar Khalid.

# DGCA summons IndiGo CEO, orders operational inspection

**NEW DELHI**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has summoned IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers to present "comprehensive data and updates" on the airline's recent operational disruptions. Elbers, along with senior officials from all relevant departments, has been instructed to appear before the DGCA today on December 11 at 3 pm. The airline is required to provide detailed information on flight restoration status across its network, progress in re-accommodating affected passengers, and priority handling measures for vulnerable travelers including elderly passengers, medical cases, and unaccompanied minors. The DGCA also expects an updated recruitment and training plan for pilots and cabin crew, along with measures to prevent roster shortages and address FDTL-related issues.

Additionally, the airline must submit details on cancellation refunds, baggage return, and re-routing arrangements following cancellations.

**What will the DGCA inspection do?**

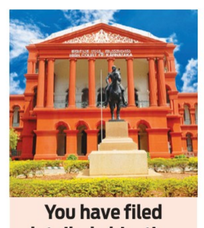
The DGCA has also ordered immediate on-site inspections at selected airports over the next three days to evaluate safety, operational preparedness, and passenger facilitation during the ongoing disruption. Inspecting officers will report within 24 hours on flight delays and cancellations, terminal congestion, queue management, adequacy of operational manpower, 24×7 help desk functioning, and communication of delays or alternate arrangements.

The inspection will further assess passenger amenities such as drinking water, seating arrangements, terminal cleanliness, hygiene of toilets, and special assistance for senior citizens, children, pregnant women, and PRMs.

## HC to hear menstrual leave challenge in January 2026

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka High Court announced it will hear in January 2026 a batch of petitions challenging the state government's November 20 notification mandating paid menstrual leave for women employees in all registered industrial establishments, citing the matter as one of "public importance." The notification requires permanent, contract, and outsourced female employees to be granted one day of menstrual leave per month.



You have filed detailed objection. We will do one thing. Advocate Prashanth (for petitioner) you go through it and file rejoinder if any. We have to hear arguments in favour and against, said HC

Earlier, Justice Jyoti M temporarily stayed the notification, but the order was quickly recalled after Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty argued it conflicted with Supreme Court directives. Shetty highlighted that the leave is in line with Articles 15(3) and 42 of the Constitution, promoting humane working conditions and maternity relief. He added that the government consulted stakeholders before issuing the notification and affirmed full implementation.

During the hearing the court was informed that the state government had filed its objections to the petition. The court asked if the notification applies to all sectors to which the Advocate General Shetty said that it did. The High Court allowed petitioners to file a rejoinder and will hear arguments from both sides after the winter vacation.

## Jairam Ramesh slams PM, HM as 'Distorians'

**NEW DELHI**

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and other ruling party leaders for politicizing history, calling them "distorians" instead of historians. Speaking during the 150th anniversary discussion of Vande Mataram, Ramesh said parliamentary debates revealed "too little history in politics and too much politics in history."

He reiterated Congress arguments, highlighting that the current version of Vande Mataram was a collective decision of the Congress Working Committee, including leaders like Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Azad, Rabindranath Tagore, and Nehru.

## QUICK READ

### Goa nightclub fire: Luthras fail to get interim relief

**PANAJI**

Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, owners of Goa's Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub where a fire killed 25 people, failed to secure interim relief from a Delhi court on Wednesday. Their plea for transit anticipatory bail will now be heard today on Thursday, with the judge also seeking a response from the Goa government. The brothers, currently in Thailand, requested four weeks of protection from arrest, arguing they do not handle daily operations, which are managed by on-ground staff. Their petition also alleged that authorities acted vindictively by demolishing another club they own in Goa. Their lawyer argued that the Luthras are "victims" who travelled abroad for business. Meanwhile, Goa Police continue arrests in the case, with an Interpol Blue Corner Notice issued against the brothers.

*More on page 7*

### Social media vetting, delays H-1B visa appointments

**NEW DELHI**

US consulates across India have postponed or rescheduled H-1B and H-4 visa appointments following the implementation of a new social-media vetting policy. The US Mission in India confirmed that December and upcoming appointments have been shifted, with many pushed to March 2026. Applicants arriving on their old appointment dates will not be allowed entry. The delays follow a December 4 directive requiring all H-1B, H-4, and certain student-visa applicants to make their social-media profiles public for review starting December 15. Immigration lawyers say the additional time is needed for enhanced screening. The State Department stressed that visas are a privilege, and thorough vetting is essential for national security. The move adds to broader US immigration tightening measures affecting many Indian professionals.

## Kudremukh forest families being relocated

**Belagavi:** Around 1,382 families live inside the Kudremukh National Park, and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre informed the Assembly that 670 of them have voluntarily agreed to relocate. The government is moving them in phases. He said compensation has already been provided to 356 families, while land valuation for 76 of the remaining 314 families is complete. Applications from families seeking rehabilitation are being processed as per the 2005 Revenue Department norms to ensure maximum compensation for houses, land and crops. A district-level committee will review each case thoroughly before finalising compensation and resettlement.

**CLEAN CHIT TO D'STHALA ADMIN**

# *SIT finds Dharmasthala mass burial claims fabricated*

**BENGALURU**

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) submitted a preliminary report to the Beltangady court in Karnataka, stating that the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case was fabricated through a conspiracy orchestrated by anti-Dharmasthala activists. The report cleared the Dharmasthala authorities of wrongdoing and named six accused: Chinnayya (A1), Mahesh Shetty Timrodi, Girish Mattannanavar, Jayanth, Vitthal Gowda, and Sujatha Bhatt.

Investigators revealed that A1 Chinnayya was coached, pressured, and paid to provide false statements, while a staged narrative of "mass burials" was created to target Dharmasthala. The accused allegedly procured a skull, staged evidence, and recorded coached statements, with conspiracy meetings held at Timrodi's residence. The SIT recovered video clips, bank transaction trails, electronic data, and witness statements supporting the findings.

The SIT has requested court permission to arrest five of the accused, with custodial interrogations planned to complete the investigation and file the final report.

Reacting to the SIT report, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said he had previously indicated in the Assembly that a conspiracy existed against Dharmasthala. He affirmed that the allegations were baseless, justice had prevailed, and the truth has come out. Shivakumar emphasized that such conspiracies could harm long-standing institutions.

**CASE IN BRIEF**

- Dharmasthala temple faced protests over murders, sexual violence, and political suppression since 1980s.
- SIT probed alleged Dharmasthala mass burials after July 2025 complaints surfaced.
- Complainant claimed coercion to bury women, minors, many showing sexual abuse.
- Eleven of thirteen identified sites were exhumed; only partial remains found.
- Complainant arrested for perjury; SIT continues investigation across Karnataka and neighboring states.

## QUICK READ

### 3 year old boy attacked by stray dogs

**BENGALURU**
In a shocking incident, a child was attacked by dogs while he was walking with his mother on the road in Nelamangala town. The 3-year-old child of Shantamma and Iresh was attacked by dogs. The injured child was treated at the Nelamangala government hospital. Every day, stray dogs are attacking not only pedestrians but also bikers. This has led to accidents. Mutton and chicken shops in Nelamangala town are a hideout for stray dogs.

### 16-year old girl dies of abdominal pain due to menstrual bleeding

**BENGALURU**
A 16-year-old girl died of abdominal pain due to menstruation at Machohalli in Madanayakanahalli. Usha Kumari, a 16-year-old girl from Bihar, who was bleeding profusely every month and was suffering from abdominal pain, died at the age of 16. The girl, who was suffering from abdominal pain due to heavy bleeding, died on the way to the hospital on Tuesday night. The body was sent to Nelamangala General Hospital for post-mortem.

### Visually impaired man brutally assaulted

**BENGALURU**
In a shocking incident, a visually impaired man was brutally assaulted by a Hindi speaking man in Bengaluru. The incident took place near Jalahalli Cross in the city. As the locals caught the attacker, the accused said that the man who stole his mobile phone looked same and hence he had caught him. The video of the incident has gone viral on social media, triggering public outrage.

# Blood samples in murder cases mandatory: HC

The High Court has dismissed the appeal filed by the accused in the wife's murder case, upholding the sentence imposed by the trial court

**BENGALURU**

The High Court has directed the state Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police (DGs, IGPs) and the Prosecution Department to issue necessary instructions to investigating officers regarding the mandatory collection of blood samples of deceased or injured persons in cases like murder allegations.

The bench of Justice R Devadas and Justice B Muralidhar Pai issued this instruction while hearing a criminal appeal filed by Bhimappa challenging the trial court's order sentencing him to life imprisonment for murdering his wife.

In addition, the bench has directed the trial courts hearing the case to mandatorily collect and submit blood group samples of those who died or were injured in criminal incidents along with evidence.

The bench also said that the investigating officers had seized blood-stained objects from the scene of the incident and blood-stained clothes from the deceased and the accused. However, they had erred in not collecting the blood group of the deceased.

The investigation report submitted by the investigating officers states that the blood group is 'O'. However, no evidence has been provided to confirm that the blood is that of the deceased. The purpose of collecting bloody soil, clothes and other items required for the chargesheet during the investigation is to add circumstantial evidence. This will allow the crime against the accused to be confirmed, it said. If the investigating officers fail to obtain the blood group report of the deceased or injured, the very purpose of collecting the bloody items will be defeated. We have come to know that the investigating agency often makes such mistakes. Therefore, the bench has directed that blood group reports should be submitted before the trial court in murder cases. The bench also directed that a copy of the order be forwarded to the DG and IG offices and the Director of Prosecution Department for necessary instructions regarding the order. It should also be forwarded to the Gadag District Legal Services Authority for appropriate compensation to the children of the deceased, the bench said in its order.

# Volunteers clean and paint Agara flyover

**BENGALURU**

**Volunteers gave a facelift to 40 pillars across four sections, carrying out intensive cleaning, waste removal, and repainting in a calming lilac palette.**

Five years after transforming the filthy stretch under Agara flyover near Silk Board, people returned with brooms and paint as garbage and dust had again crept back. Over 200 volunteers from KPMG Global Services (tax group), along with Bengaluru South City Corporation (Bommanahalli Division) officials and members of The Ugly Indians undertook a large-scale clean-up and restoration drive under Agara flyover on Sarjapur Road. The flyover, located at a crucial junction connecting HSR Layout and Koramangala with Outer Ring Road-Sarjapur tech zone corridor, fell into neglect during the past five years of Metro construction. The entire space beneath the flyover turned into a dumping ground for debris and was also misused as an open public toilet. The structure was earlier revamped in 2019 under then BBMP's Adopt-a-Flyover initiative to convert it into a public-friendly space. However, once Metro work began, the restored area gradually deteriorated, becoming dusty, unsafe, and chaotic, worsened by ongoing white-topping work around the junction.

As part of Greater Bengaluru Authority's CSR-backed initiative to rejuvenate spaces under flyovers, volunteers returned to revive the site, with BMRCL extending support by clearing construction debris and vacating stored materials, as most civil works in the stretch are close to completion.

The flyover has over 60 pillars, of which 20 remain within the active project zone. The volunteers said that the three-hour drive was their first civic action campaign and that the experience deepened their understanding of the effort required to maintain large public spaces.

The restored area is expected to provide a safe spot for pedestrians at the busy junction, which lacks clearly marked crossings, and for commuters boarding or alighting from buses.

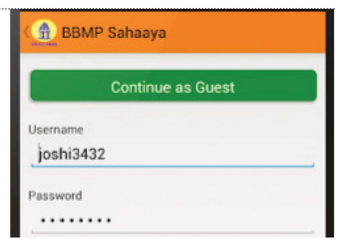
# English teacher accused of assaulting 11-year-old student

**BENGALURU**

Days after a physical training teacher at a private school was arrested for allegedly assaulting a class VII student, an East Bengaluru parent accused her 11-year-old son's English teacher of assaulting him in class at a school in HRBR Layout. The boy, a student of class VI, allegedly suffered an internal injury in his ear and inside his mouth after the teacher slapped him twice in front of his classmates on December 5, his mother told police. The student's mother also filed a complaint against the school principal and a coordinator for allegedly not responding to her properly when she questioned them about the assault. The boy's mother first complained to the child welfare committee and then to cops. A senior officer said a case was registered at Banaswadi police station under Juvenile Justice Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 115 (voluntarily causing hurt). We issued a notice to the accused and action will be taken, the officer added. The boy's mother claimed the English teacher was targeting her son for the last two-three months after she questioned him about the delay in correcting the class test paper. She told police her son took a paper cutter to school for his arts and crafts class. After he finished writing his English class text, he started to work on his craft assignment. He injured himself with the cutter and called out 'Amma' loudly in pain during the English class.

The teacher questioned him for disturbing the class and tried to take the paper cutter from the student, but he refused, saying he had brought it from home and would take it back. The teacher slapped him twice and took him to the coordinator, the complaint said. Police said the boy was scolded and warned.

The teachers called his father and informed him that he had hurt other children with the paper cutter, and the boy was not allowed to go home after school hours, the student's mother said in her complaint. After returning home, the boy's mother took him to a nearby hospital where doctors told her that he was bleeding in the mouth due to a cut and an internal injury in his ear.




# Quick Grievance Resolution via North City Phone-In

**BENGALURU**

To directly hear and promptly address various types of public grievances within the limits of the Bengaluru North City Corporation, Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has launched a weekly Phone-In Interaction every Friday.

This week's Phone-In programme will be held on December 12 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM. During this session, citizens may directly share their issues with the Commissioner, including potholes and road repair, streetlight maintenance, garbage collection/disposal issues, removal of hazardous trees and branches, mosquito-control measures, stray-dog management, park maintenance and improvements, removal of unauthorised banners and posters, clearing footpath encroachments, e-Khata related queries, and problems pertaining to drainage, among others.

Every complaint submitted will be recorded on the Sahaaya 2.0 Portal and immediately forwarded to the concerned officials. Citizens will receive an SMS notification with the complaint acknowledgment and details of the assigned officer.

**Control Room Contact Numbers:**
Mobile & WhatsApp: **9480685705**, Landline: **080-22975936 / 080-23636671**. Citizens may also submit their grievances through the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile app.

# State government seeks Centre's support for Q-MIN

**BENGALURU**

The state government has requested the Union government to support a plan for establishing a Quantum Materials Innovation Network (Q-MIN) in Bengaluru, positioning it as a national resource for research and industry needs within the quantum sector. This proposal was sent by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a letter dated November 26. The state has begun efforts to create a 'Quantum City' in Bengaluru, aiming to make it a hub for quantum technologies. The plan seeks to foster research, support deep-tech enterprises, and enhance advanced manufacturing, while aligning with National Quantum Mission.

The letter emphasises that materials are fundamental to research and industry strength in areas such as quantum computing, quantum communication, and quantum sensing. National Quantum Mission has already established a vertical for materials research, and Karnataka believes that a dedicated network in Bengaluru would enhance this effort.Q-MIN is proposed as a platform that leverages Karnataka's ecosystem of research institutions and industries to develop high-quality, indigenous quantum materials. The state stated that the network would also address national requirements, supporting research groups and companies working on strategic materials.

The proposal outlines three key elements: a capital investment of approximately Rs 150 crore under National Quantum Mission for local and distributed material infrastructure; the establishment of national and international connections for education, skill development, and innovation; and a framework that encourages participation from both the public and private sectors in quantum technologies.Siddaramaiah noted that the network, along with the planned Quantum City, could help India strengthen its position in the quantum sector. He added that the state is prepared to collaborate with the Centre to build a foundation for long-term scientific and economic outcomes.

# High Alert in City after Goa Tragedy, Strict Pub Checks for New Year

**BENGALURU**

In the wake of the Goa nightclub tragedy, the Bengaluru Police has issued guidelines for pubs, bars and restaurants for the New Year. Twenty days before the New Year, groups of young people in Silicon City are gearing up to welcome the New Year.

The police have held meetings with pubs, bars, restaurant owners for enforcing strict rules for New Year celebrations. The police have instructed that fire department permits to party in pubs, bars and restaurants, bars and pubs will be closed without permission from the Fire and Safety Department, legal action will be taken if the service is provided without permission. If there are too many customers at the party, the owner will be held responsible. In addition, pubs and bars should not have more customers than required. No service can be provided beyond the stipulated time. CCTV cameras will be mandatory in every bar and pub where there is a celebration. Priority must be given to women's safety.

The police have made a number of rules and regulations to tighten the venues of party celebrations.

# 50% Discount on Traffic Fines, Rs 16.63 Cr Collected

**BENGALURU**

The state government has been receiving a good response after allowing motorists to pay 50 percent of their traffic fines. More than 5 lakh cases have been settled in three weeks and Rs 16.63 crore in fines have been collected.The government approved the proposal submitted by the Transport Department and issued a concession order to pay only 50 percent of the fine from November 21 to December 12. Accordingly, in the last three weeks, Rs. 16.63 crore in fines have been collected and as many as 5,88,127 traffic violation cases have been settled. There has already been a good response from the people, and 50 percent of the fine can be paid till December 12.

People can also pay the discounted amount of their fine through online payments such as KSP, BTP, Bangalore One, Karnataka One, and traffic police. After December 12, the fine will have to be paid in full. Earlier, from August 23 to September 12, 50 percent of the fine was allowed to be paid.

# Unauthorized pani puri manufacturing unit seized

**BENGALURU :** Pani puri lovers here is a big shocking news for you, a gol gappa that will be made using tamarind sourdough, mint chilli chutney, rotten potatoes, onions and dirty puri flour. The scene was seen in Adepet in Nelamangala city, where some people from Uttar Pradesh were making gol gappa by renting a house. Following a complaint that Golgappa was being manufactured without any licence, the Food Safety Officials and the Health Department of the Nelamangala Municipal Corporation jointly conducted a raid on the Panipuri manufacturing units. The health department officials were shocked to see the way 7-8 youths from Uttar Pradesh were making golgappa. They were making gol gappa without obtaining a food license and without maintaining purity. As the authorities did not have a licence, they imposed a fine of five thousand rupees and confiscated the materials used in the manufacture of gol gappa.

**KSCA REVIVAL PLANS**

# *KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad meets CM, DCM*

**BENGALURU**

Newly-elected Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) president Venkatesh Prasad met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar on Wednesday, pledging to bring international cricket and the IPL back to the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Prasad described the meeting as "extremely positive and fruitful," adding that the proposals will be discussed in the cabinet and assembly soon. Fans have been waiting for marquee matches in Bengaluru after a tragic stampede during the Royal Challengers Bangalore IPL victory celebration in June claimed 11 lives.

Chinnaswamy has since hosted only domestic events, with the BCCI preferring the Duleep Trophy and India 'A' series at the Centre of Excellence. The stadium was initially scheduled to host five ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 matches, including the final, but these were relocated following administrative vacancies after resignations by KSCA officials.

Prasad, who won the KSCA election on Sunday with support from cricketing legends Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath, was elected president with a 749-558 margin over KN Shanth Kumar. Sujith Somasundar, former India ODI player, was elected vice-president.

Shivakumar congratulated the KSCA team and discussed plans to enhance cricket infrastructure in Karnataka. "We had a constructive discussion on strengthening cricketing infrastructure and empowering the sport," he tweeted, wishing them a successful tenure.

Prasad said: "Our goal is to restore Chinnaswamy as a hub for international cricket and IPL so fans can enjoy world-class cricket once again."

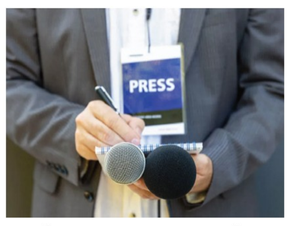
The KSCA now aims to finalize plans to host international matches and return the IPL to Bengaluru after five decades, marking a new chapter in Karnataka cricket.

## QUICK READ

### Activists demand urgent repair of Kuvempu Circle

**Hubballi**

The Jaya Karnataka Sangathan has demanded urgent repairs to Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Circle near Shantiniketan School on Ghantikeri Lane, Hubballi. The iron grill surrounding the circle is damaged, and banners placed disrespectfully have insulted the memory of the national poet. Activists criticized municipal officials for ignoring the site's poor condition. The group warned that if the circle is not restored promptly, strong protests and public action will follow. They emphasized the responsibility to honor Kuvempu's legacy and ensure the area is maintained properly, urging the zonal office officials to take immediate action.




### Gadag invites journalism apprenticeship applications

**Gadag**

The Information and Public Relations Department, Gadag, has invited applications for a 12-month journalism apprenticeship for graduates from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Candidates must have graduation or post-graduation in journalism, know Kannada, and have computer skills. Selection will be through merit and interview, and applicants must be below 35 years. The training will run from January to December 2026, 10 am to 5:30 pm, with a stipend of Rs. 15,000 per month. Applications with final-year mark sheets must be submitted to the department by Dec. 26, 2025.

# Min highlights welfare schemes supporting state workers

The Ambedkar Labour Assistance Scheme provides accident compensation, disability benefits, hospital bill reimbursement, and ₹10,000 funeral support

**HUBBALLI**

Labour Minister Santosh Lad has said that development work in the Labour Department belongs to the people and their welfare. He stated that many important programmes have been carried out for the benefit of unorganised workers in the last two and a half years. The Karnataka State Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board is giving social security to workers in 91 different categories, including many traditional occupations. Smart cards have been issued to identify these workers.

Under the Ambedkar Labour Assistance Scheme, families of workers who die in an accident receive compensation of Rs 1 lakh. Workers who suffer disability due to accidents also receive compensation based on the extent of disability. Hospital bills up to Rs 50,000 are reimbursed. In case of natural death, families get Rs 10,000 for funeral expenses.

One of the most important schemes introduced by the department is the Gig Workers' Insurance Scheme. Many gig workers deliver food and goods for companies like Swiggy, Zomato, Blinkit, Amazon,Flipkart and Big Basket. Minister Lad said these workers had no safety cover earlier, but the new scheme gives financial protection to them and their families. Karnataka is the first state in India to start such an insurance plan.

Another scheme provides insurance support to newspaper delivery workers. They get accident insurance of Rs 2 lakh and hospital bill support up to Rs 1 lakh. To benefit, they must be Karnataka residents between 16 and 70 years old and must be registered as newspaper delivery workers on the e-Shram portal. The Karnataka State Private Commercial Transport Workers' Accident Relief Scheme also supports drivers, operators and cleaners who face risks every day. The scheme provides accident compensation to workers and their families. The Labour Department has also introduced a new programme called "Ashadeep" to encourage private companies to employ more candidates from SC and ST communities.

# Govt May Increase Basava Housing Scheme Assistance

**During a council session, BJP's Pradeep Shettar said rising rural construction costs may prompt higher housing subsidies, discussed with the Chief Minister for inclusion in the state budget**

**BELAGAVI**

The Karnataka government is considering increasing financial aid for beneficiaries under the Basava Housing Scheme, Minister Zameer Ahmed. The proposed assistance could range from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 4 lakh per beneficiary to help with the rising cost of house construction.

The announcement comes after several complaints highlighted that the current assistance was insufficient for constructing houses. The government is reviewing these concerns and planning to provide higher support to selected beneficiaries to make the scheme more effective.

During a Legislative Council Question and Answer session, BJP member Pradeep Shettar explained that construction costs in rural areas have risen significantly due to expensive raw materials. He said the proposal to raise the subsidy under various housing schemes is under consideration. Shettar added that he has discussed the matter with the Chief Minister, and the increase may be included in the upcoming state budget.

The minister also clarified that there are no pending fund releases under any other state housing schemes except for the ongoing central government housing initiatives. By the end of October 2025, Rs 1,324.26 crore had already been disbursed to eligible beneficiaries under different state housing schemes.

This move aims to provide better financial support to beneficiaries and ensure that the Basava Housing Scheme effectively meets its goal of promoting affordable housing in rural areas.

The government is expected to finalize the subsidy increase soon, offering significant relief to families looking to build new homes under the program.

With the proposed increase, the scheme will become more accessible and practical for beneficiaries, addressing long-standing concerns about insufficient funding for rural housing construction.

*Amendments allow automatic land conversion online within 30 days, exempting small industries under two acres and approved renewable energy projects from conversion*

# Land conversion rules to be simplified soon: Byre Gowda

**BELAGAVI**

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda informed the Legislative Council that the draft amendment to Section 95 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act 1964 will be implemented through a notification within the next month. The amendment aims to simplify land conversion processes and benefit citizens.

During a council session, MLA Ramoji Gowda asked why the Section 95 amendment notification had not yet been implemented and highlighted the problems faced by urban residents. Responding, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the act has been in place since 1964, but necessary amendments were delayed. The latest draft, prepared on October 20, focuses on further simplifying land conversion and preventing misuse of the system.

He added that in the past, middlemen exploited land conversion, harming the government's image. The new amendments aim to stop such practices. Under the revised rules, business owners can now get automatic conversion according to the master plan. Previously, deemed conversion and conversion outside the master plan took three to four months. Now, applications can be submitted online, and District Collectors can approve or reject them within 30 days. If no decision is made, conversion will be automatically allowed.

Small industries need no land conversion for up to two acres. Renewable energy projects also do not require conversion if energy department approval is obtained.

The minister further explained that clear rules for revenue courts under Sub-Divisional Officers have been formulated to prevent orders beyond their jurisdiction. Many related procedures have also been simplified through amendments. Krishna Byre Gowda assured that all changes will be notified and implemented within a month, making land conversion faster and more transparent.

Officials, citizens, and industry representatives welcomed the announcement, noting that these amendments would reduce delays and encourage investment in urban and industrial areas.

## Gadag holds capacity building training workshop

**GADAG**

A one-day capacity building workshop under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 will be held on December 11 at the Gadag Zilla Panchayat Sabha Bhavan. The training is for Municipal Corporation members, department officers, and staff. Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar will inaugurate the workshop. Municipal Commissioner Rajarama S. Pawar, District Urban Development Project Director Basana Gowda Kotura, and other officials will attend. Skilled resource persons will provide guidance on cleanliness, safety measures, and related topics. The workshop aims to strengthen knowledge and efficiency of participants in promoting a clean and safe urban environment

# Gadag pushes for full Grihalakshi progress by January: Ashok Mandali

**GADAG**

Chairman of the Taluk Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority, Ashok Mandali, on Wednesday directed officials and Anganwadi workers to achieve 100 percent progress under the Grihalakshi scheme by January 1. He said that although Gadag taluk ranks first in the state for implementing guarantee schemes, the Grihalakshi scheme still requires faster progress.

Mandali was speaking at the taluk-level progress review meeting held at the Sub-Divisional Office. He stressed that Anganwadi workers play a key role in reaching every beneficiary. With the cooperation of municipal council members, officers, and committee members from all 35 wards, he said no eligible person should miss out on the scheme's benefits. He asked Anganwadi workers to identify families still deprived of support and provide the required information quickly.

He praised the achievements of Gadag taluk, noting that its progress was possible due to the guidance of State Guarantee Schemes President H.M. Revanna, Vice President S.R. Patil, and District In-charge Minister Dr. H.K. Patil.

Committee member Krishnagouda Patil said the guarantee schemes aim to strengthen the financial condition of the poor and must be delivered without delay. He urged Anganwadi workers to visit every ward and ensure benefits reach all eligible people.

Under the Grihalakshi scheme, 82,193 residents in the taluk are eligible to receive ration in the owner's name until July 2025. So far, 81,967 applications have been filed, out of which 78,986 have been approved, marking 96.36 percent progress. Mandali said efforts must continue until the scheme reaches all intended households.

Officials, Anganwadi workers, and committee members participated in the meeting.

## Belagavi Police Deny AQSA Protest Permission, Warn of Action

**BELAGAVI**

The Belagavi Police Department has denied permission for a protest planned by the All Karnataka State Student Association (AQSA), City Police Commissioner Bhushan Borase said. The commissioner warned that legal action would be taken if the protest is held without authorization. Speaking to the media, Commissioner Borase said AQSA had applied to hold a protest on Thursday (today), but the request was rejected due to concerns over law and order. He noted that previous protests in Dharwad had caused public inconvenience, and authorities do not want similar disruption in Belagavi, especially while the legislative session is underway.

"Action will be taken to maintain law and order. The public should not be inconvenienced," Borase added, emphasizing that permission had not been granted as per intelligence reports.

On the other hand, AQSA members expressed disappointment over the denial. All India Students' Union state president Kantha Kumar criticized the government, saying, "We condemn the denial of permission for a peaceful protest. The authorities should respond to our demand in the House." AQSA is seeking action on 2,75,386 vacancies in 43 government departments and had petitioned to increase the age limit for applicants.

The students claimed that other protests had received permission and questioned why theirs was rejected. They said they plan to approach the court to hold their protest lawfully and demanded that the government take their concerns seriously.

Recently, police had also restricted a similar protest in Dharwad, citing law and order issues.

# Citizens must uphold and protect human rights: Shivana Gowda

**GADAG**

Every citizen has a responsibility to protect human rights, said C.S. Shivana Gowda, Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, during a Human Rights Day event at the District Administration Building Auditorium on Wednesday. He stressed that everyone should ensure human rights are not violated.

Shivana Gowda explained that human rights are inherent from birth and include the right to life, freedom of religion, equality, freedom of movement, a decent environment, and access to education. "No one has the right to take away the freedom of others," he said. He added that complaints regarding human rights violations can be filed with the Human Rights Commission, either in writing or online.

He noted that violations can occur in prisons, schools, and other institutions, including cases involving slavery, terrorism, and child marriage. The Human Rights Commission, established in India in 1993, can investigate complaints and recommend action to the concerned departments. Fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution are also considered human rights. "Every citizen has both rights and duties, and no one should violate them," he emphasized.

District Collector C.N. Sridhar inaugurated the celebrations and administered the Human Rights Pledge. Deputy Director of School Education R.S. Burudi highlighted the need for awareness programs to help people understand and respect human rights. S.G. Palleda, Legal Advisor to the District Magistrate, noted that the UN passed a human rights resolution in 1948 and India established its commission in 1993, emphasizing that violations can occur in jails, schools, offices, and police stations.

Other dignitaries included D.Y.S.P. Mahantesh Sajjanara, Sub-Divisional Officer Gangappa M, Tahsildar Srinivas Murthy Kulkarni, officers, and students. The program featured a national song by Venkatesh Alkode and was compered by M.A. Yaragudi.

**SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE**

# *Authorities urged to control stray dog menace immediately*

**GADAG**

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar has directed officials to take prompt action to control stray dogs in the district. He made the remarks while presiding over a meeting on stray dog management at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall. Sridhar instructed that nodal officers be appointed at key locations such as bus stands, Anganwadi centers, hotels, and hostels to monitor stray dog numbers. The data collected should be submitted to the heads of urban local bodies and panchayat development officers. He emphasized the need to identify suitable locations for sterilization and treatment centers and establish stray dog foster care centers at each hobli level.

The Deputy Commissioner also asked heads of institutions to submit a memorandum outlining actions taken so far in compliance with Supreme Court orders. Noting reports of stray dogs posing threats to children, women, and senior citizens, Sridhar stressed that timely action is necessary before the problem worsens.

The meeting discussed forming a special team to safely capture stray dogs for veterinary surgery, rabies vaccination, health check-ups, marking, and release. Officials also stressed the importance of proper garbage management. Strict instructions will be issued to collect waste from markets, hotels, meat shops, and public spaces in closed bins to reduce stray dog attraction.

Present at the meeting were G.P. Deputy Secretary C.R. Mundaragi, DySP Mahantesh Sajjana, Urban Development Project Director Basanagowda Kotura, District Health Officer Dr. S.S. Neelgund, District Surveyor Dr. Venkatesh Rathod, Backward Classes Welfare Officer Mehbooba Thumbaramatty, Women and Child Development Deputy Director Smt. Padmavati Ji, and heads and staff of city and local bodies.

## QUICK READ

### Alumni celebrate teachers with Guru Vandana ceremony

**Gadag**

SSLC alumni of Basel Mission Agricultural High School, Betageri (2001-02 batch) will honor their teachers and hold a friendly gathering on December 13 at 10 am. Seventy former students, now IAS, IPS, KAS officers, engineers, soldiers, politicians, and corporate professionals, will pay tribute to their mentors from 25 years ago. Teachers including Santosh Nandikeshwar, Jessica D'Cruz, Geeta Gundi, and others will be recognized. The program features folk songs and cultural performances. A garden built by the alumni at a cost of two lakh rupees will be inaugurated and dedicated to the school during the event.

### Hostel admission applications open for 2025-26

**Gadag**

The Social Welfare Department, Shirahatti, has invited applications for hostel admission for the 2025-26 academic year. Eligible Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Other Backward Class students enrolled in educational institutions under Shirahatti town can apply for vacant hostel seats. Students must register online at https://swd.karnataka.gov.in or https://swdhmis.karnataka.gov.in, create an SSP Portal account, and submit their application via e-AWA using their login credentials. For details, students may contact the Assistant Director, Shirahatti Office, at 08487-295097 or 9480843132. The last date to apply is February 28, 2026.

# Police detain Panchamasali activists at Suvarna Soudha

Police halted protesters, detaining leaders including MLA Bellada and Swamiji as they accused government of ignoring reservation issues

**BELAGAVI**

Police detained Lingayat Panchamasali activists who were heading to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha to protest for 2A reservation. The activists, including religious leaders, MLAs, and community representatives, expressed anger at both the police and the state government.

The protest marked Lingayat Panchamasali Atrocities Day, observed to remember the lathi-charge incident that took place on December 10 last year, when the community had protested for reservation rights. A silent march was planned from Gandhi Bhavan to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, with participants wearing black bands and holding Panchamasali flags.

Swamiji Basavajaya Mrityunjaya of Kudalsangama Panchamasali Peeth, MLAs Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, C.C. Patil, Aravind Bellada, Siddu Savadi, former MLA Dr. Vishwanath Patil, and others joined the rally. As the march reached Channamma Circle, Swamiji and other leaders staged a sit-in, demanding action from the government.

Police stopped the protesters at Sangolli Rayanna Circle. When tensions rose, authorities began detaining leaders one by one, including MLA Aravind Bellada and Swamiji, who were forcibly taken into police vehicles. Protesters shouted slogans against the government, accusing it of ignoring the reservation issue and past atrocities against the community.

Swamiji told the media that the government had never before committed such acts against Lingayats. "We are peacefully protesting to demand justice and reservation. The government should apologize immediately," he said.

MLA Aravind Bellada criticized the state government for delaying reservation and failing to act against officers involved in the lathi-charge. He said he had raised the issue in the assembly, with other leaders including Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, C.C. Patil, and Siddu Savadi supporting the cause.

Yatnal also accused the Congress government of neglecting Panchamasali demands and focusing on other issues like Tipu Jayanti. He said the community would continue its struggle until reservation was granted, signaling that the fight would continue until the next elections.

# Gangavathi murder accused sentenced to life

**KOPPAL**

**The court reviewed evidence and testimony, found Abdul Bari guilty, and ordered a fine divided among families, with nonpayment within three months adding year imprisonment**

Abdul Bari, father of Noor Ahmed from Gangavathi, has been sentenced to life imprisonment and fined Rs. 4.5 lakh for the murder of Maulahusain, a relative of his wife. The verdict was delivered on December 8 by 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge Sadanand Nagapapp Nayak.

The accused, who ran a chicken shop at Sewalal Cross, Gangavathi, had kept the deceased, his wife's cousin, at his house a few months before the incident. On October 3, 2023, following a dispute with his wife over a mobile phone, Abdul Bari slit the throat of Maulahusain while he was sleeping around 5:30 a.m. The accused later posted about the murder on WhatsApp and Instagram before surrendering to Gangavathi Nagar Police Station.

Investigators confirmed the offence under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code. Gangavathi Nagar police officers Adiveppa Gudikoppa, Manjunath S, Anjaneya D.S., and Inspector Prakash Mali submitted a charge sheet, leading to the trial.

The court examined evidence, documents, and witness statements before pronouncing Abdul Bari guilty. The fine will be split among the deceased's mother, wife, the accused's wife, and son, with Rs. 50,000 going to the government. If the fine is unpaid within three months, the accused will serve an additional year in prison.

Government prosecutor Nagalakshmi S. represented the case, while police staff, including Constable Raghavendra, Srinivas, and Vishwanath, assisted in investigation and court procedures.

The case highlights the swift action of Gangavathi law enforcement and the judiciary in addressing violent crimes and ensuring justice for victims.

## Gadag athletes eligible for incentive grant

**GADAG**

The Youth Empowerment and Sports Department has invited applications for incentive grants for Gadag district athletes who achieved victories at national and international sports events during 2025. Eligible athletes who participated and won between January 1 and December 31, 2025, can apply by submitting a participation certificate, Aadhaar card, bank passbook, passport-size photo, and application form. Applications are available at the Office of the Assistant Director, K.H. Patil District Stadium, Gadag. The last date to apply is December 31, 2025. For further details, contact 08372-238345, the department said.

*K'taka sought urgent MSP procurement approval, but delays persist, undermining farmer trust and potentially threatening broader food security*

# MPs urge immediate MSP for Karnataka farmers

**DAVANAGERE**

A delegation of Karnataka MPs, led by Davanagere MP Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun, visited New Delhi to request Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to approve immediate Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement for millet and sugarcane through NAFED and NCCF. The delegation carried a letter from Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging prompt action.

Farmers in Karnataka are facing losses due to delays in MSP procurement. In the current Kharif season 2025-26, sorghum has been sown over 16.80 lakh hectares, with an expected production of more than 12.60 lakh metric tonnes. The crop forms the economic backbone for farmers in districts including Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Bidar, Raichur, Vijayapura, Koppal, Belgaum, Bellary, Vijayanagar, Bagalkot, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Chitradurga.

The current market price of sorghum is between ₹5,830 and ₹6,700 per quintal, while the Central Government announced MSP for 2025-26 at about ₹8,000 per quintal. Peak crop arrival is expected between December 2025 and January 2026, but procurement centers are scheduled to open only in February and March. This delay is pushing farmers into forced sales at a loss, debt, and financial distress.

The Karnataka government submitted a proposal to the central government on November 6, 2025, for immediate MSP procurement through NAFED and NCCF, but no approval has been received so far. The MPs highlighted that such delays affect farmers' trust in public institutions and threaten food security.

Other MPs in the delegation included G. Kumar Nayak, E. Tukaram, Shreyas Patel, Sunil Bose, and Sagar Khandre. They urged the central government to act immediately, stating that Karnataka has historically contributed to national food security and that timely MSP procurement is both an economic and moral responsibility.

The Congress MPs emphasized that prompt action would not only support farmers' incomes but also strengthen cooperation between state and central authorities while safeguarding national food security.

## MLAs Question Guarantees Amid Development Concerns

**BELAGAVI**

Members of the ruling Congress have raised strong concerns inside the legislative assembly, saying that the state's guarantee schemes are slowing down development work. During a late-night Congress Legislature Party meeting at a top hotel, several MLAs told Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that essential development funds have stopped reaching their constituencies.

They said that although the government came to power by promising the five guarantee schemes, it is now facing a shortage of money for development projects. Many MLAs said there is no money in the government treasury, pending bills from old works are still unpaid, and they feel embarrassed when citizens question them about slow progress. People ask about damaged roads, poor drainage systems and unfinished projects, but MLAs say all funds are being absorbed by the guarantee schemes.

MLAs argued that while the guarantees help people, citizens are also demanding improvements such as temple development, community halls and better roads. They warned that if the state focuses only on guarantee schemes, other basic needs will be neglected. Some MLAs also said that public appreciation for the guarantees is less than expected, while demand for development work continues to rise.

In the meeting, Legislative Council member Sudham Das questioned whether free benefits should be extended even to wealthy households, such as 200 units of free electricity in rich areas or free bus travel for women earning high salaries. He asked for a review to ensure fairness and balance.

However, ministers have clarified that the government will not stop the guarantee schemes under any circumstances. CM Siddaramaiah also stated that no MLA has officially asked for changes and that guarantees were not a topic of discussion in the meeting.

## Koppal invites applications for journalism training

**KOPPAL**

The Information and Public Relations Department in Koppal has invited applications from eligible candidates for a 12-month journalism apprenticeship program. This training is specifically for graduates from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have completed a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Journalism from a recognized university in Karnataka.

Candidates must be proficient in Kannada and possess computer skills. The selection will be based on merit and interview. Applicants should not be more than 35 years old by the last date for submission. Late applications will be rejected. The application envelope must be marked: "Application for Apprenticeship Training for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Candidates under Special Unit Scheme and Tribal Sub-Scheme."

Selected candidates must submit original documents during the interview. A mark sheet of the final year of their postgraduate degree is required at the time of application. No applications will be accepted without the mark sheet.

The training, scheduled from January 2026 to December 2026, will run from 10 am to 5:30 pm. A monthly stipend of Rs. 15,000 will be provided. The apprenticeship is temporary, and participants cannot hold other employment during the training. Original documents will not be returned if the training is left midway, unless the participant secures permanent employment in a government or private organization under specific conditions.

Candidates selected previously under this scheme are not eligible to apply again. Any false information provided by applicants may result in a criminal case. Selected candidates must also submit a written declaration on Rs. 20 stamped paper agreeing to comply with all terms.

Applications can be submitted to the Office of the Assistant Director, Information and Public Relations Department, District Administration Building, Koppal, from December 11 to 26, 2025. For forms and information, applicants may contact Dr. Suresh G., Assistant Director, at 9480841245, 8277462995, or 8150920986.

# Kala Pratibotsava-2025 showcases hidden talents

**GADAG**

Kala Pratibotsava-2025 provided a platform for participants to showcase their hidden talents, said Mehbooba Thumbaramatti, District Officer of the Backward Classes Welfare Department. He inaugurated the cultural competition at the District Kannada Sahitya Bhavan on Wednesday, organized in collaboration with the Gadag District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Kannada and Culture Department.

Speaking at the event, Mehbooba Thumbaramatti said everyone has a talent, and competitions like Kala Pratibotsava allow individuals to express their abilities. "Winning or losing is not important. Defeat is a stepping stone to success. Contestants should focus on showing their talent and making the most of this opportunity," he added.

Assistant Director of Kannada and Culture Department, Dr. Basavaraj Bellary, said Gadag is known for its rich legacy of music, literature, and art. He highlighted that great artists such as Pandita Puttaraja Gawaigalu and Bharat Ratna awardee Dr. Pandita Bhimsen Joshi come from the region. "The government and cultural departments have made it possible to organize this program here. Participating in such competitions fosters a competitive mindset and mental well-being among youth," he said.

Shankarappa R Sankannavara of Karnataka Janapada Academy urged children to engage in extracurricular activities alongside their studies.

The stage also featured Karnataka Banjara Academy member Smt. Savitri Lamani, senior litterateurs I.K. Kammara and Andanappa Vibhuti, Mounesha Badigera, and musician Veeresh Kittur.

The program saw participation from contestants and judges across the seven taluks of Gadag district. The event celebrated talent in music, literature, art, and painting, encouraging young participants to grow creatively and contribute to the cultural richness of the region.

**RIGHTS REQUIRE DUTIES**

# *Koppal calls for collective human rights protection*

**KOPPAL**

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal emphasized that protecting human rights is the responsibility of every citizen. Speaking at the World Human Rights Day program organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and District Legal Services Authority at Sahitya Bhavan on Wednesday, he said, "Everyone should realize their duties and work together to protect human rights."

Dr. Itnal explained that in India, there are three types of rights: constitutional, statutory, and private rights. He said the Constitution guarantees the right to equality, protection under law, education, religious freedom, and a dignified life in a healthy environment. "Human rights are given from birth. Protecting them is our primary duty. Rights and duties are equally important," he added.

He highlighted the importance of acting on pledges made on Human Rights Day, noting that environmental care and water conservation are part of our duties. He also mentioned government programs like the Food Security Act and Annabhagya Yojana, which provide essential items to ensure every person can live with dignity.

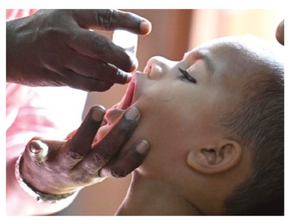
Addressing youth, Dr. Itnal said, "Only 40 percent of students qualify in campus interviews due to skill gaps. The government is offering training to improve employability, and students should take advantage of it."

Senior Civil Judge Mahantesh Dargada stressed that human rights mean treating everyone equally. He pointed out that discrimination and untouchability still exist in some areas and that abolishing such practices is necessary to protect human rights.

Dr. Prabhuraj Nayak, Principal of Mangalore Government First Grade College, noted that basic human rights, such as clean air, water, and safe food, are often denied. He said human rights ensure a natural, happy, and healthy life from birth to death.

The program included an oath administered by District Bar Association President A.V. Kanavi and was attended by Koppal SP Dr. Ram L. Arasiddi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sidrameshwar, and other officials, staff, and students.

QUICK READ



## Pulse Polio drive in Chitradurga from December 21 to 24

**Chitradurga**

Chitradurga district will conduct the National Pulse Polio Programme from December 21 to 24. A total of 1,169 teams have been formed, and like previous rounds, two drops of the oral polio vaccine will be administered at all earlier vaccination centres. To ensure effective monitoring, 239 supervisors have been appointed. This year, 1,26,361 children below five years of age have been identified for vaccination, regardless of how many times they have been vaccinated earlier. The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Dr. G.P. Renu Prasad, has appealed to the public, NGOs, religious leaders, elected representatives, officials, and the Women and Child Development Department to extend full cooperation to make the campaign successful.

## Journalism apprenticeship in Vijayapura

**Vijayapura**

The Vijayapura Department of Information and Public Relations has invited applications for a 12-month apprenticeship under the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan. Eligible candidates must belong to SC or ST communities, hold a degree or postgraduate degree in journalism, and possess basic computer skills. One SC and one ST candidate will be selected for apprenticeship training at the district office based on merit and an interview. Selected candidates will receive a stipend through the Media Academy.

# Kharge announces steps to simplify rules for Mangaluru IT park

The K'taka govt is moving to simplify rules for establishing the proposed Mangaluru IT Park under the PPP model

**BELAGAVI**

Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge has said that efforts are underway to simplify procedures and promote investment in the proposed Mangaluru IT Park, planned under a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model. Speaking during the Assembly's Question Hour at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, he emphasized that Udupi, Mangaluru and Manipal have immense potential for investment and job creation, making them suitable for establishing a commercial IT office park.

Responding to a question from BJP MLA Dr. Y. Bharat Shetty, the minister informed that tenders have already been invited for setting up the IT Park at Derebailu (Blueberry Hills Road) in Mangaluru's Kasaba Hobli. The contract includes designing, building, financing, operating and transferring the project over a 30-year period. The tender bidding process is scheduled for December 15, he said.

Kharge added that before finalising the project, consultations were held with IT companies, educational institutions, entrepreneurs and local representatives from the three cities. Based on these discussions, Udupi, Mangaluru and Manipal have been grouped into a single cluster to attract investments and boost employment opportunities.

Raising the issue, Dr. Bharat Shetty said the IT Park is crucial for Mangaluru's economic development, but the requirement to deposit 50% of the land value poses difficulties for developers, as banks may not provide loans under such conditions. He requested the government to reconsider this policy, especially when it comes to projects on government land.

Responding to this concern, Minister Kharge stated that the tender process scheduled for December 15 will go ahead as planned. After the bidding is completed, the government will review the policy if necessary, ensuring the project remains viable and beneficial for the region.

# DC directs feed units to maximise maize procurement

**CHITRADURGA**

Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh has instructed all animal and poultry feed manufacturers in the district to purchase the maximum possible quantity of maize directly from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He delivered these directions while presiding over a preliminary meeting held at the DC office on Wednesday, focusing on ensuring adequate maize supply for poultry and livestock feed units.

During the meeting, the DC said that details regarding the annual production capacity of feed units and their maize storage capabilities must be compiled without delay. He further directed officials to facilitate the procurement of high-quality maize from farmers through the Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation (KSCMF), ensuring transparency and fair pricing.

Venkatesh added that a decision on establishing procurement centres would be taken only after a joint team—comprising tahsildars, assistant agriculture directors, and assistant directors from the animal husbandry department—visits various feed units across taluks. These teams will assess storage facilities, verify requirements, and submit reports, following which suitable procurement points will be finalised.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr. N. Kumar, Deputy Director of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, noted that guidelines for purchasing maize grown during the current monsoon season have already been issued by KSCMF, and that all departments will strictly follow these procedures.

Additional DC B.T. Kumaraswamy, Joint Director of Agriculture B. Manjunath, Polyclinic Deputy Director Dr. C. Tippeswamy, officials from cooperative departments, representatives of feed production units, TAP-CMS, and primary agricultural cooperative societies were present.

# NDRF conducts disaster management drill

**BENGALURU RURAL**

A comprehensive disaster management mock drill was organised in Hosakote by the 10th Battalion team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to educate the public on handling emergencies. The exercise aimed to demonstrate how to respond effectively to disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, fires, gas leaks, heavy rains, accidents, and building collapses, while highlighting the importance of precautionary measures and public awareness.

The drill was held at Devalapura Government PU College and Swami Vivekananda Vidya Kendra in Hosakote taluk.

Inspector Ramabaj of the NDRF addressed the participants, emphasising that disasters can occur at any time without warning. He stressed that patience, presence of mind, and skill are crucial in managing such situations. Disasters often lead to life-threatening scenarios, and it becomes a humanitarian duty for trained individuals to step forward and help save lives. He added that gathering accurate information and being prepared in advance is essential for effective disaster response.

Head Constable Vajra Chetan demonstrated various stages of disaster management, explaining the precautionary steps individuals must take during emergencies.

The event saw active participation from the Hosakote Tahsildar, PDOs of gram panchayats, fire and emergency service personnel, STMC members, officials from several departments.

# Awareness drive held on e-pauti land records system

**CHIKKABALLAPUR**

An awareness programme on the E-Pauti digital land records system was organised in Tippenahalli village of Chikkaballapur taluk. The event, held jointly by the District Administration, Taluk Administration and Revenue Department, aimed at educating farmers and residents about accessing and updating their land records online.

Deputy Commissioner P.N. Ramesh visited the village and reviewed the ongoing awareness activities. He interacted with villagers, explaining how the E-Pauti system simplifies land record management, ensures transparency, and reduces the need for physical visits to government offices. He urged farmers to make full use of the digital platform to avoid delays and errors in official land documents.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar, along with other officials including Assistant Commissioner D.H. Ashwin and the local Tahsildar, participated in the programme. Revenue Department staff, gram panchayat members, farmers and local residents were also present. Officials highlighted the importance of adopting technology in land administration, noting that E-Pauti will help streamline services, minimise disputes, and improve efficiency. Demonstrations were given on how to check, verify and update land details online.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ವೆನ್‌ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಹಂಪನಕಟ್ಟಾ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ದ.ಕ–575001
E-mail ID: dsdkannada@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಸ್‌ಯುಪಿ(1)/C-37/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.12.2025
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
ವೆನ್‌ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಕನ್ಸ್ಯೂಮೇಬಲ್ಸ್/ಡಿಸ್ಪೊಸೇಬಲ್ಸ್‌ಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 1999–2000 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು Kppp.Karnataka ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.12.2025, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.12.2025 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.12.2025, 04.30 ಕ್ಕೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 2,48,85,222/–, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ. 6,22,130/–
(ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದರೆ ಮರುದಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನದಂದು ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು)
ಸಹಿ/– ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ವೆನ್ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1233/25-26 dt.10.12.2025

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಂಘ
ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0836–2951501
No.NHM/DWD/MPT /267/2025 -26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–12–2025
ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
Tender No. DHFWS/2025-26/SE1834
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಂಘ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ದಿಂದ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಮತ್ತು ನಮ್ಮ ಕ್ಲೀನಕ್ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದಂತೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೇನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ನಿಯಮ–1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
01) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–12–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 04.30 ರ ವೆರೆಗೆ 02) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–12–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 03) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. 04) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಥವಾ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಚೆರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಹೆಚ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/968/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
CRL.Misc. No. 179/2024
Between: - Smt. Venkatalakshmamma and others ...Petitioners
And: - The Tahsildar, Devanahalli Taluk Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
I the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients namely Smt. Krishnamma W/o Late.Papanna, D/o Venkatashamappa, aged about 53 years, R/at:- Kommasandra village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District have filed the above petition for the death certificate of Late. Munivenkatamma W/o Late.Venkatashamappa who died on 04.05.2021 at Kommasandra village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Principal Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli and the date of hearing on 23.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M. in C.Mis No.179/2024.
By the order of this Hon'ble court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Civil Judge & JMC Court Devanahalli
Address for service:- Sri.K.Mohankumar, Advocate, Office at:- 1st floor, Narayanachar complex, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru Rural District

BEFORE THE COURT OF XXXVIII ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, AT BENGALURU (CH-38)
CC No. 33754/2021
BETWEEN: M/S GILADA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED, Registered office at No.105, R. Takt, Bhoopasandra Main Road, Bengaluru-560 094. Represented by its Authorized Signatory Mrs. Iswaria Rajan, Wife of J. Yuvaraju, aged about 37 years, Bengaluru-560 040.... COMPLAINANT
AND: Mr. DINESH KUMAR, Son of Nain Singh, Residing at No.7, 2nd Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Near Vinayaka Temple, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560 030. ... ACCUSED
PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the Complainant has filed the above complaint before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru, that the accused, Sri. Dinesh Kumar is suspected to have committed the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and summons issued to the Accused has returned and that the Jurisdictional Police has filed a report stating that the said accused Sri. Dinesh Kumar is not the address and is unable to be traced.
AND WHEREAS, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru that the said accused has been absconding or concealing themselves to avoid the service of Summons.
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sri. Dinesh Kumar is required to appear before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru to answer the said complaint on 20.12.2025.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 09/12/2025
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, XXXVIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City
NEERAJ RAJIV SHIVAM, Advocate
M/s. ASTRA LAW CHAMBERS
No. 4, Pamadi Towers, 1st Floor, Flat No. 11, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore - 560 009. Mob: 99169 24411.
Neerajrajivshivam@astralawchambers.com

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–1&2/ಟೆಂಡರ್–15&18–2ನೇಕರೆ/4210–2210–422–SCSP/2025–26 ದಿ:08.12.2025
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಮೈಸೂರು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಮತ್ತು ನವೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರು /ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಮಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ CAT-II(A) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ.90.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ.25.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:18.12.2025 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 19.12.2025 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. **ಸೂಚನೆ: 1)** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/1331/KSMCA/760/2025-26

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ ರಸ್ತೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08156–277016, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08156–277011 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: zpadmckbpur@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಪಂಚಿ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ಹೊ.ಸಿ.ಟೆಂಡರ್.ಆ/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.12.2025
: ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ : E-PROCUREMENT TENDAR NOTIFICATION (ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)
2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಬಹುಕಾಯಕ ನೌಕರರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ. **Calendar of Events :** (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಪಂಚಿ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ಹೊ.ಸಿ.ಟೆಂಡರ್.ಆ/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2025–26 **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.12.2025.** (2) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: **ರೂ. 66,000/–.** (3) **e-portal** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.12.2025.** (4) ಪೂರ್ವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಭೆ **(Pre Bid Meeting): ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.12.2025 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಸ್ಥಳ: ಮಿನಿ ಸಭಾಂಗಣ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ (5) **e-portal** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.12.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (6) **e-portal**ನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು & ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 19.12.2025 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (ಸ್ಥಳ: ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ). (7) **e-portal**ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12.2025 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** (ಸ್ಥಳ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ). (8) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಗಧಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ. **Email:ceozpcbpur@gmail.com.**
ಸಹಿ/–ಉಪ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:295/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

CHANGE OF NAME
I BHARGAVI alias BHARGAVI Y alias BHARGAVI M W/O Narasimha Rao Y, R/O # A207, United Elysium 2, Channasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHARGAVI VELICHETI.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JYOTHI MALLIKARJUN S/o J JAMBANNA R/o 12, Near Anjaneya Temple, Vaddarahalli, Papinayakanahalli, Hospet, Bellary, Karnataka-583223, have changed the name of my minor daughter TAMMITA MALLIKARJUN JYOTI aged 9 years and she shall hereafter be known as THANVITHA J M.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, THULASI PRASAD R S/o RAMAKRISHNA N, R/o No. 82, 1st Block, Hosa Agarahara Hobali K R Nagara, Gandhanahalli Village, Gandhanahalli, Mysuru, Karnataka - 571603, have changed the name of my minor son PRANAV THULASI PRASAD aged 11 years and he shall hereafter be known as SHANMUKA PRANAVA.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRASAD KOTISWARAN S/o CHANDRASHEKAR KOTISWARAN, R/o No 3, 16th Cross 6th Main, Malleswaram, Malleswaram West, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560055, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRASAD KARTHIK KOTISWARAN.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC COURT AT DEVANAHALLI
C.MISC. NO. 467/2025
Between:- Smt. Chowdamma and others ....Petitioners
And: - The Tahsildar, Devanahalli Taluk. ....Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients Smt. Chowdamma, W/o late Munishamappa, Aged about 70 years, R/at: Kurubarakunte Village, Janatha Colony, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, have filed the above petition for the death certificate of one late Muniyamma W/o Doddaputtappa @ Puttaga who died on 22/05/1994 at Kurubarakunte Village, Janatha Colony, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, if any 3rd parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Prl. Civil Judge and J.M.F.C at Devanahalli and the date hearing on 09/01/2026 at 11.00 A.M in Crl. Mis.No.467/2025,
By the order of this Hon'ble court
Cheif Ministerial Officer,
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Advocate for Petitioners
Address for service: Sri. Narasimhamurthy, Advocate, Office at: #58, 1st Floor, J.M. Arcade, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town-562110. Mob.No.:9844050327.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC COURT AT DEVANAHALLI
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By the order of this Hon'ble court
Cheif Ministerial Officer,
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Advocate for Petitioners
Address for service: Sri. Narasimhamurthy, Advocate, Office at: #58, 1st Floor, J.M. Arcade, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town-562110. Mob.No.:9844050327.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Govt of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi
No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-2/Tender Notification/2025-26/ 5848 Date: 09.12.2025
Short Term Tender Notification
1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the (09) Works under KKRDB. for indent No GEN(05) 29979, 29975, 30120, 29962, 28411.(02-Work Res for Cat-2A.-29582. 29362) (01-Work Res for SC Cat-28719.) (01-Work Res for Cat-1-29993.) 2) Estimate cost : Min Rs. 25.00 Lakhs Max Rs 990.00 Lakhs 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class IV, III, II,I & above 4) EMD Amount : Min Rs. 42000.00 Max Rs 1245000.00 5) Pre-Bid Meeting : 01.01.2026 (11.00 Hrs) 6) Last date for quries : 02.01.2026 (17.30 Hrs) 7) Last date for Submission of Bid : 03.01.2026 (16.00 Hrs) 9) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 05.01.2026 (16.30 Hrs) 10) "Date of opening of Financial Bid (for Two Cover) " 06.01.2026 (11.30 Hrs) 11) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi 12) Note : GST Will be Paid Separately13) Website : WWW.e-proc.Karnatak.gov.in 14) Bidders Should Note That : "Note: 1) Undersigned reserves the right to Cancel / Postpone/ Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only."
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/836/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity

## QUICK READ

### Supreme Court Reserves Verdict On 2020 Riots

**New Delhi**

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its decision on bail pleas of activists Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and others in the UAPA case linked to the February 2020 Delhi riots. The riots, during protests against the CAA and NRC, killed 53 people and injured over 700. The Delhi Police called the violence "orchestrated and preplanned." The accused are challenging the Delhi High Court's September order rejecting their bail in the alleged conspiracy case.

### Waves OTT Partners With RailOne App Integration

**New Delhi**

Waves OTT, Prasar Bharati's digital entertainment platform, has partnered with the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) to bring its content to the RailOne app. RailOne, Indian Railways' official passenger services platform, offers ticketing, live train updates, and journey services used by millions daily. This collaboration allows train passengers to access Waves OTT content, including live TV, movies, radio, documentaries, and devotional programs in over 15 languages, reaching around 2.3 crore daily travellers across India.

### NDA Cadets Support Fallen Batchmate's Sister

**Pune**

National Defence Academy cadets have rallied to support Rujuta Mahale, whose brother, Cadet Pratham Mahale, passed away in October 2023 after a boxing injury. Pratham had dreamt of seeing his sister pursue medical studies. His course mates from Oscar Squadron contributed funds for her NEET preparation and medical college admission, regularly sending Rs 30,000–35,000. The group of 22 officers also visits the family, offering emotional support, keeping Pratham's memory alive while helping Rujuta achieve her dreams in medicine.

# Kangana Says Modi Wins Hearts, Not Hack EVMs

BJP MP Kangana Ranaut praised PM Narendra Modi, criticised opposition, and defended women's dignity

**NEW DELHI**

BJP MP Kangana Ranaut said in Lok Sabha that Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not need to tamper with electronic voting machines, as "he has hacked the hearts of the people." Participating in a discussion on election reforms, she expressed concern over daily disruptions by opposition MPs, saying their behaviour often felt "traumatic" and prevented Parliament from functioning effectively.

Ranaut criticised the opposition for repeatedly shouting, jumping into the Well, and creating spectacles during sessions. "Maybe, barring the last two or three days, they did not let the House run at all," she said, urging new MPs to focus on learning and fulfilling their responsibilities.

Addressing EVM tampering allegations, she mocked calls to return to paper ballots, calling them "an outdated relic of another era." She also targeted Rahul Gandhi for speaking in metaphors instead of providing evidence, while asserting that Congress leaders could not accept electoral defeats.

The MP further condemned opposition members for displaying a photograph of a woman of "foreign origin" in the House, calling it a violation of her dignity and personality rights. "On behalf of this House, I apologise to her," she said, emphasising that every woman deserves respect.

Ranaut contrasted opposition behaviour with the Modi government's initiatives empowering women, citing schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, construction of household toilets, and free cooking gas connections. She also criticised Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for suggesting the government should "leave the past behind," alleging that the Congress has long been "steeped in entitlement" and cannot ignore its own history.

Ranaut's speech highlighted her support for Modi's leadership style, his policies for women's welfare, and her criticism of opposition tactics in Parliament, particularly regarding disruptions, EVM allegations, and personal attacks.

# India, US Strengthen Ties Through Strategic Talks

**NEW DELHI**

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri hosted Allison Hooker, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, for discussions aimed at strengthening the U.S.-India strategic partnership. The talks focused on defence, technology, and security cooperation, building on the vision set by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their February meeting.

The discussions reviewed the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, covering trade, investment, defence ties, civil nuclear cooperation, critical minerals, emerging technologies, and trusted supply chains, including the ongoing TRUST initiative. Both sides explored ways to convert previous agreements into tangible outcomes benefiting both nations.

**Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and US diplomat Allison Hooker discussed defence, technology, trade, and security, aiming to convert previous agreements into practical outcomes strengthening India-US strategic partnership**

Hooker, on a five-day visit to India, highlighted Washington's intent to enhance cooperation in sectors such as defence, energy, technology, space, and supply chain resilience. The talks also reaffirmed support for a free and open Indo-Pacific and examined regional and global developments affecting bilateral cooperation.

The February 2025 Modi-Trump meeting had set ambitious goals, including expanding Indian purchases of U.S. oil, gas, and military platforms like F-35 jets, pursuing a major trade agreement, and achieving USD 500 billion in annual bilateral trade by 2030.

The US Embassy said the talks were an opportunity to strengthen cooperation that fuels U.S. innovation while supporting India's rise as a global technology leader. Both sides emphasized the value of practical measures in defence, energy, technology, and trusted supply chains to deliver benefits to citizens of both countries.

The consultations reflected a broad commitment to deepen strategic, economic, and technological ties, ensuring that the India-US partnership continues to grow in scope and impact.

# Former Judges Condemn Campaign Against CJI Over Rohingya Remarks

**NEW DELHI**

Forty-four former judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts have condemned what they called a "motivated campaign" against the Chief Justice of India (CJI) following his remarks on Rohingya migrants during court proceedings. In an open letter, the retired judges said disparaging the Supreme Court is unacceptable and criticism must remain fair and reasoned, not aimed at undermining the judiciary.

The judges noted that the CJI was criticised merely for asking basic legal questions about the status claimed by Rohingya migrants. They emphasised that the Bench had affirmed that no one in India—citizen or foreigner—can be subjected to torture or inhuman treatment, upholding human dignity.

The letter pointed out that most Rohingyas entered India without legal refugee protection, often through irregular means, and cannot claim refugee status by mere assertion. India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or 1967 Protocol, and obligations arise from the Constitution, immigration laws, and human-rights principles.

The judges raised concerns over the reported misuse of Indian identity documents like Aadhaar and ration cards by Rohingya migrants, supporting a court-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate illegal document procurement and possible trafficking networks.

While recognising the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, the letter stressed that Indian courts must follow legal categories, balancing national security with human dignity. The former judges warned that questioning nationality, migration, or documentation issues should not be labelled as prejudice, as it could threaten judicial independence.

Signatories include ex-Supreme Court judges Anil Dave and Hemant Gupta, former Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Anil Deo Singh, and former Chief Justice of J&K and Delhi High Courts B.C. Patel. The letter concluded: "Bharat's constitutional order demands both humanity and vigilance."

# Ravi Shankar Prasad Blasts Congress In Lok Sabha Debate

**NEW DELHI**

Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad strongly rebuked Congress in a fiery Lok Sabha debate on electoral reforms, accusing the party of questioning the democratic process only after losing elections.

Prasad noted that the opposition routinely challenges the Election Commission's integrity following setbacks. "If the people of India are choosing not to vote for you, what fault is ours?" he said, earning applause from Treasury benches. Highlighting Congress' poor performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, he remarked that despite loud rallies and repeated allegations tied to the Special Investigation Report (SIR), the party won just five seats, crediting voter support to BJP-led development initiatives under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The BJP leader also targeted Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, who had criticized the government over the SIR, the Chief Election Commissioner's selection, and alleged "vote theft." Prasad pointed out that Venugopal is a petitioner in the Supreme Court on the same matter and questioned his moral authority to comment, urging the Chair to expunge his remarks from the official records.

# Bail Granted To Congress MLA In Second Assault Case

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

A Thiruvananthapuram court on Wednesday granted bail to expelled Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil in the second sexual assault case filed against him. The order provides him interim relief while two other cases against him continue to be investigated.

The court had reserved its decision on his anticipatory bail plea two days ago and instructed investigators not to take any coercive action until the verdict. Mamkootathil had been absconding since late November, and the bail directs him to appear before the investigating officer every Monday.

The second case arises from fresh allegations that

Mamkootathil sexually assaulted a survivor despite her pleas for mercy. She had earlier stayed silent due to threats and intimidation. Her statement, along with WhatsApp chats, audio clips, and other digital evidence, has been recorded by Superintendent of Police Poonguzhali and submitted to the court.

The High Court has already stayed his arrest in the first sexual assault case until December 15, when a final ruling on his bail plea is expected. Mamkootathil's lawyers argue the allegations are politically motivated and unreliable, while the prosecution points to corroborating digital evidence and the gravity of the charges.

Police operations are ongoing, with a newly formed special investigation team taking over to prevent information leaks. The previous team, which conducted searches in Karnataka, has returned, and the new team continues its investigation to ensure thorough scrutiny of all evidence.

The court's bail decision marks a significant development in a case that has attracted intense legal and public attention, highlighting the ongoing investigation into serious allegations against the former MLA.

# Chhattisgarh Approves Case Withdrawal For Surrendered Maoists

**RAIPUR**

The Chhattisgarh Cabinet on Wednesday approved a structured mechanism to withdraw criminal cases against surrendered Maoists under the state's Naxal Surrender/Victim Relief and Rehabilitation Policy 2025. The initiative aims to strengthen rehabilitation by assessing the good conduct and positive contributions of surrendered extremists in anti-Maoist operations before considering case withdrawal.

A district-level committee will first review cases and submit reports to the Police Headquarters. A Cabinet sub-committee will then scrutinize recommendations and forward them to the full Cabinet for final approval. Cases under central laws require Union Government consent, while others will proceed through respective courts via district magistrates for formal withdrawal.

In addition, the Cabinet approved the Chhattisgarh Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) (Second) Bill, 2025, simplifying 116 provisions across 14 Acts of 11 departments. The reforms aim to reduce criminalisation of minor infractions, ease compliance, and promote business-friendly regulations, making Chhattisgarh the first state to implement a second version of Jan Vishwas reforms.

The Cabinet also sanctioned the Chhattisgarh Appropriation Bill, 2025, enabling the presentation of the first supplementary budget estimates for 2025–26 in the state Assembly.

# Tribal Woman's Head Found, Internet Ban Extended in Odisha

**MALKANGIRI**

The Odisha government extended the suspension of internet services for another 24 hours in violence-hit Malkangiri district after the severed head of a tribal woman, Lake Podiami, was recovered from a riverbank. The 51-year-old's head was found about 15 km from where her body was discovered on December 4, near a Kanya Ashram on the Poteru riverbank.

Prohibitory orders remain in force in Rakhelguda and MV-25 villages, where tensions escalated after the woman's murder. Her mortal remains were buried on Tuesday under tight security in the presence of senior officials. Police are examining the recovered head and continuing investigations to determine the circumstances of the killing.

Lake Podiami had gone missing on December 1, and her family filed a missing persons report on December 3. Violence erupted on Sunday after her body was found headless, with tribals from Rakhelguda allegedly attacking MV-26 village, damaging and setting fire to around 200 houses.

Subha Ranjan Mandal (42) has been arrested in connection with the murder. Authorities are taking steps to restore normalcy, providing relief to affected residents. Malkangiri District Collector Somesh Kumar Upadhyay said a free kitchen has been set up at MV-26 village, distributing food, blankets, and essentials. Around 300 people who had fled the village have returned and are staying in temporary shelters.

# Telangana Joins Hands With IIFA For Global Cinema

**HYDERABAD**

The Telangana government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has entered a landmark multi-year partnership with the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) to showcase Indian cinema globally and boost the state's cultural presence. The deal was announced at the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025 and positions Hyderabad as a hub for creativity and culture.

Under the agreement, IIFA will promote Telangana at the 26th IIFA Awards in 2026 and host IIFA Utsavam in Hyderabad from 2026 to 2028. The festival will celebrate Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam cinema while drawing international filmmakers, creators, and investors to the state. IIFA broadcasts to over 120 countries, reaching more than 2.5 billion viewers, offering Telangana a platform to enhance tourism and global engagement.

Reddy described the partnership as transformative, saying it reflects Telangana's ambition and openness to collaboration. "Through IIFA 2026, we will take the story of Telangana to the world, and with IIFA Utsavam, we bring the world back to our state," he said, highlighting the role of cinema in cultural diplomacy and soft-power leadership.

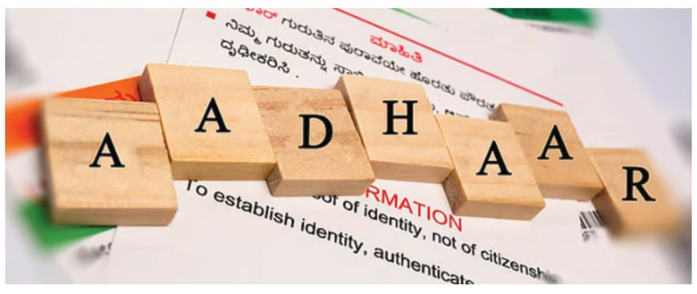
Officials said this collaboration marks one of the most ambitious cultural and economic initiatives by an Indian state. It aligns with Telangana's vision to become a $1 trillion economy by 2034 and positions Hyderabad as a rising global centre for film-led tourism, innovation, and the creative economy.

The partnership aims to cement Telangana as the cultural capital of South India and a destination for international audiences and investors, combining art, business, and diplomacy on a global stage.

AADHAAR BAN STORAGE

# *UIDAI Bans Private Aadhaar Photocopy Storage*

**NEW DELHI**




The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) will soon implement a rule banning private entities, like hotels and event organisers, from storing physical copies of Aadhaar cards. The new rule will require such entities to register for Aadhaar-based verification before using it.

UIDAI CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar said the initiative aims to discourage paper-based Aadhaar verification and enhance privacy and security. "The new rule has been approved and will be notified soon. It will mandate registration of offline verification-seeking entities," he stated.

To support this, UIDAI has launched the Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC Verification, allowing Aadhaar holders to share their identity without handing over physical copies. Users can download the e-KYC data via the mAadhaar portal or app, Aadhaar Seva Kendra, or through SMS and biometric authentication.

The offline e-KYC includes details such as name, address, photo, gender, date of birth, mobile number, and email in hashed form. This process ensures secure verification, reduces dependency on intermediate servers, and prevents misuse or data leaks.

Kumar emphasised that this paperless process will make offline verification easier while maintaining user privacy. Entities that previously relied on storing Aadhaar photocopies will now adopt digital verification methods, making identity checks safer and more reliable.

The move is part of UIDAI's ongoing effort to modernise Aadhaar usage, improve data security, and encourage citizens and institutions to adopt safer verification practices nationwide.

QUICK READ

### Bombay HC Questions Police Over Pune Land

**Mumbai**

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday asked if police were protecting Parth Pawar, son of Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, by not naming him in a Pune land deal FIR. Justice Madhav Jamdar raised the question during a pre-arrest bail hearing for businesswoman Sheetal Tejwani, another accused. The case involves the sale of 40 acres in Mundhwa to Amadea Enterprises, where Parth is a major partner. Authorities claimed legal action will follow as per the law.

### 8,000 Govt Staff Got Ladki Bahin Aid

**Nagpur**

The Maharashtra Assembly on Wednesday debated alleged corruption in the Mukhyamantri Mazi Ladki Bahin Yojana. Minister Aditi Tatkare revealed that around 8,000 government employees wrongly received benefits under the scheme. She also said 12,000 to 14,000 women without bank accounts used their husbands' accounts to get the monthly Rs 1,500 payment. The opposition questioned the government's oversight, while the ruling benches defended the scheme's intent to support women across the state.

### Bihar Zoo Provides Heaters, Blankets For Animals

**Patna**

As December temperatures dropped in Bihar, animals at Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park received heaters and blankets to stay warm. Tigers, bears, and even a Burmese python were seen cozying in their enclosures. Minister Pramod Kumar said the government prioritizes the safety of animals alongside humans, with veterinarians and dedicated staff monitoring their care. Separate food, complete shelters, and emergency services have been arranged. The government assured all expert-recommended measures would be implemented to protect the animals from the harsh cold.

# Human Rights Day reminds us to protect dignity and equality

## UN Chief Calls Universal Human Rights Philosophical Breakthrough

**NEW DELHI**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said human rights are a philosophical and political breakthrough that everyone must strive for. His message, read by UN Resident Coordinator Areti Saianni at Bharat Mandapam, was attended by President Droupadi Murmu and NHRC Chairman Justice B Ramasubramanian. Guterres highlighted that nearly 80 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) defined essential rights needed for all humans to survive and thrive.

The message stressed that civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights are inalienable, indivisible, and interdependent. However, recent years have seen shrinking civic spaces and serious violations, showing disregard for rights and indifference to human suffering. The UN works daily to help people realize basic rights by delivering food, providing shelter, supporting education and elections, clearing mines, defending the environment, empowering women, and promoting peace. Guterres emphasized that this effort requires everyone's participation to protect the most vulnerable and uphold institutions defending human rights.

President Droupadi Murmu said Human Rights Day is a reminder that universal human rights are inalienable and form the foundation of a just and compassionate society. She recalled that 77 years ago, the world agreed that every human is born free and equal in dignity and rights, noting India's important role in shaping the global human rights framework. Human Rights Day, observed annually on December 10, marks the anniversary of the UDHR, a landmark document guaranteeing rights to all individuals regardless of race, religion, sex, or status.

# EAM Jaishankar Pays Tribute To Rajagopalachari Legacy

**NEW DELHI**

**Both Jaishankar and Modi emphasised that Rajaji's vision, dedication to the nation, and commitment to public service remain a guiding light for present and future generations. His contributions as a leader, thinker, and reformer continue to inspire citizens across India.**

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar paid homage to freedom fighter C. Rajagopalachari on his birth anniversary, highlighting his enduring influence on India's political and social thought. Jaishankar described Rajaji as "one of India's most influential public minds," whose life, ideals, and thoughts continue to guide the nation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tributes to Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji, on his 147th birth anniversary. Sharing archival photographs and a 1922 edition of Young India, Modi praised him as a freedom fighter, thinker, intellectual, and statesman who upheld human dignity and contributed significantly to India's independence and governance.

Born on December 10, 1878, in Madras Presidency, Rajagopalachari was a lawyer and early political comrade of Mahatma Gandhi. He left his legal career to join the Indian National Congress and actively participated in protests like the Rowlatt Act agitation, the non-cooperation movement, and the Civil Disobedience movement. His leadership and intellectual contributions earned him respect across political circles.

Rajagopalachari became India's last Governor-General, a position abolished after India became a republic in 1950. He was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Madras and served on the sub-committee on minorities, helping shape India's democratic framework. Recognising his lifetime of service, he was conferred with the Bharat Ratna in 1954, India's highest civilian award.

Both Jaishankar and Modi emphasised that Rajaji's vision, dedication to the nation, and commitment to public service remain a guiding light for present and future generations. His contributions as a leader, thinker, and reformer continue to inspire citizens across India.

## Prime Witness Injured, Son And Driver Killed Accident

**BARASAT**

Bholanath Ghosh, a key witness in cases related to jailed TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan, was injured when a truck collided with his car on Basanti Highway in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, on Wednesday. His younger son, Satyajit (32), and driver Sahanur Molla (27) were killed when the 16-wheel truck dragged their car into a nearby water body. The truck driver fled the scene, and the vehicle was found dangling over the water.

Ghosh, initially treated at a local hospital, was later shifted to a private facility in Kolkata and released after primary treatment. The bodies of the deceased were sent to SSKM Hospital for post-mortem. Ghosh had been heading to the Basirhat sub-divisional court to appear in a case filed by Shahjahan. Eyewitnesses claimed the truck jumped lanes and hit the car at high speed, suggesting a deliberate attack. Ghosh's elder son, Biswajit, alleged that Shahjahan, from jail, orchestrated the incident through aides Sabita Roy and Moslem Sheikh. Both denied the allegations, calling them baseless.

Shahjahan was arrested by West Bengal Police in February 2024 after evading authorities for 55 days following an attack on Enforcement Directorate officials. He faces investigations for multiple cases, including forceful land acquisition and sexual assault in Sandeshkhali. Official complaints from Ghosh's family were yet to be lodged, and the police are expected to investigate the accident further.

*Diwali now recognised globally for its cultural and spiritual significance*

# PM Modi Hails Diwali UNESCO Intangible Heritage Recognition

**NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday praised the inclusion of Diwali in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. He described the festival as closely linked to India's culture and ethos, calling it "the soul of our civilisation" that represents illumination and righteousness. Modi said the recognition will enhance the festival's global popularity and hoped the ideals of Lord Shri Ram continue to inspire people.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also welcomed the listing, calling it a recognition of Diwali's immense cultural, religious, and spiritual significance and its role in uniting people. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed the inscription, highlighting the importance of the festival in India and worldwide.

UNESCO described Deepavali as a light festival celebrated annually across India, marking the last harvest and the start of a new year. The festival, based on the lunar calendar, falls in October or November and lasts several days. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. During Diwali, people clean and decorate homes, light lamps, offer prayers, and set off fireworks for prosperity and new beginnings.

India has a growing presence on UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List, with other entries including Ramlila (2008), Yoga (2016), Kumbh Mela (2017), Durga Puja (2021), Garba (2023), Navroz (2024), and the traditional brass and copper craft of the Thatheras of Punjab (2014). Intangible cultural heritage encompasses practices, knowledge, rituals, performing arts, and crafts passed down generations, strengthening cultural identity and diversity. UNESCO adopted the 2003 Convention to safeguard such traditions from threats posed by globalization, social changes, and limited resources.

# Tamil Nadu Likely To Witness Coalition Government 2026

**CHENNAI**

AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran on Wednesday said Tamil Nadu is expected to have a coalition government after the 2026 Assembly elections, as no single party appears likely to secure an absolute majority. Speaking to the media, he noted the political landscape points to a fractured mandate, making coalition arrangements inevitable.

Dhinakaran added that if a strong alliance forms under actor Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), it could challenge the ruling DMK-led coalition. He also clarified that his recent meeting with former BJP Tamil Nadu president K. Annamalai in Coimbatore was personal and not politically motivated.

On allegations regarding the demolition of 125 Hindu temples, Dhinakaran said he would not comment without verifying facts, urging political groups to act responsibly and avoid communal friction.

He reiterated the call for unity among followers of late Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa, hinting at internal realignments within the AIADMK camp and citing O. Panneerselvam's position.

The AMMK leader raised concerns over rising murder and robbery cases due to the drug menace and claimed that women's safety has deteriorated significantly.

Regarding future strategies, Dhinakaran said formal announcements about alliances would be made in the next two months. While discussions are ongoing with some parties for potential tie-ups, he did not reveal the names.

# Maha Minister Orders Comprehensive Health Institutions Plan

**NAGPUR**

Maharashtra Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Prakash Abitkar on Wednesday directed the state administration to prepare a comprehensive plan to strengthen health institutions, from population-wise sub-centres to referral hospitals, ensuring quality services for all citizens.

Addressing a review meeting on under-construction health buildings, Abitkar emphasised that all National Health Mission facilities should be fully functional for patient care. "Health institutions must be upgraded as per demand. Budgets should be monitored, and no compromise made on cleanliness, food, or manpower," he said.

He stressed strict action against lapses in hygiene and service, including paying contractual employees per the Minimum Wages Act and blacklisting contractors involved in malpractices. Officials guilty of negligence are also to face strict action.

Abitkar instructed completion of Thane General Hospital on a war footing and reactivation for patient service. The review covered multiple hospitals across the state, including Sangamner Women's Hospital, Jivati Rural Hospital, Daga Hospital, Umred Sub-District Hospital, Dharashiv District Hospital, and Palghar's Manor Trauma Care, among others.

The minister also called for improving hospital infrastructure, hygiene, and food quality, with strict checks to prevent lapses. A statewide mechanical linen washing service for 593 government hospitals will ensure sterilised, infection-free linen.

WOMEN HEALTH

# *WHO, Health Ministry Launch Women's Metro Campaign*

**NEW DELHI**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a month-long campaign on women's and girls' health at Sultanpur Metro Station, Delhi, on Wednesday. Running from December 10, 2025, to January 10, 2026, the initiative uses Delhi Metro trains and stations to spread messages on women's safety, mental well-being, TB awareness, digital access, and the PC&PNDT Act, 1994.

The campaign train, themed "Healthy Women = Healthy Nations, BcozSheMatters," was flagged off by Catharina Boehme, Officer-in-Charge of WHO South-East Asia, and Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava. Boehme highlighted that healthy women are essential for families, communities, and the nation. She said, "Health of women and girls, including mental health, is crucial not only for their well-being but for the well-being of society."

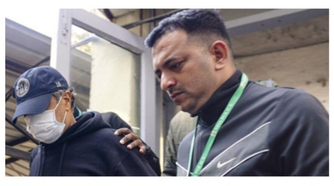
Srivastava emphasised the importance of reaching people through accessible platforms, adding that families and nations cannot progress unless women are healthy. She noted that messages have been displayed inside metro coaches and on exterior panels to ensure maximum visibility.

The launch saw participation from Health Ministry officials, WHO representatives, and youth council members from the YP Foundation. An all-women band, WeBhor, performed, celebrating women's resilience and dignity.

WHO stated that the campaign will also run on its digital platforms until January 10, encouraging wider engagement and commitment to ensuring that women and girls live safe, healthy, and empowered lives. Senior officials including Meera Srivastava and Geetu Joshi were present during the event.

# Goa Nightclub Owners Denied Interim Relief By Court

*Continued from page 1*



Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, owners of Goa's Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub that caught fire killing at least 25 people, failed to secure interim relief from a Delhi court on Wednesday. The court has scheduled the hearing of their transit anticipatory bail plea for Thursday.

Additional Sessions Judge Vandana asked the Goa authorities to respond to the plea filed by the brothers, who requested four weeks of transit anticipatory bail to avoid immediate arrest upon returning to Delhi from Thailand. They also sought interim protection from arrest.

The Luthra brothers had fled to Phuket, Thailand, following the tragedy on December 6. An Interpol Blue Corner Notice has been issued against them. Earlier, a Look Out Circular was issued against Ajay Gupta, one of the four owners, after Goa police failed to locate him in Delhi; he was later detained and will be placed under arrest following formalities. Another owner, British citizen Surinder Kumar Khosla, also has an LOC issued against him.

So far, five nightclub staff have been arrested, including chief general manager Rajiv Modak, general manager Vivek Singh, bar manager Rajiv Singhania, gate manager Riyanshu Thakur, and employee Bharat Kohli.

The fire broke out around midnight on December 6 at the Arpora-based nightclub, claiming 25 lives. The investigation is ongoing as authorities continue to track down the absconding owners and examine the circumstances that led to the tragedy.

### Goa Police Secures 36-Hour Transit Remand Gupta

A Delhi court on Wednesday granted Goa Police a 36-hour transit remand of Ajay Gupta, one of the four owners of Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub, where a fire killed 25 people on December 6. Gupta, detained in Delhi, will be questioned before being taken to Goa. The court directed that his spinal injury and medical needs be considered during custody. Meanwhile, owners Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra are in Thailand, and an Interpol Blue Corner Notice has been issued. Five nightclub staff have already been arrested in connection with the tragedy.

## Gujarat Crime Branch Intensifies Cyber Fraud Crackdown

**AHMEDABAD**

The Gujarat Crime Branch has stepped up its efforts to combat cyber fraud by targeting "mule accounts" used to launder proceeds of online crimes. Officials said more than 34 such accounts have been identified, and proceedings for three FIRs against the operators have begun.

Investigators are also examining the role of personnel from two banks to check whether negligence or collusion enabled misuse of these accounts. Additionally, 18 SIM card vendors suspected of issuing fraudulent SIMs to support the operations are under probe. A detailed financial and digital analysis of the accounts and their wider network is ongoing.

The crackdown focuses on organised groups renting or operating mule accounts and scrutinises compliance by banks and digital platforms. Non-compliant entities may face action by the Gujarat Cyber Tribunal.

## QUICK READ

### Turkey seeks return to U.S. F-35 program

**ANKARA**

The U.S. is in talks with Turkey about rejoining the F-35 fighter jet program, Ambassador Tom Barrack said. Turkey was removed from the program in 2020 due to its purchase of Russian S-400 air defense systems. Barrack noted that U.S. law prohibits operating S-400s if Turkey wants to return. He added that improved relations between President Trump and President Erdogan have led to productive discussions. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan expressed hope that sanctions could soon be lifted. Talks aim to satisfy both U.S. security and Turkey's interests.

### Lahore tops global pollution charts again

**ISLAMABAD**

Lahore has been ranked the world's most polluted city with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 353, according to Swiss monitor IQAir. Quetta also recorded severe pollution with an AQI of 517. Poor air quality affected Rahim Yar Khan, Gujranwala, and Faisalabad, while fog reduced visibility on highways. Smog, caused by diesel fumes, agricultural burning, and low temperatures, worsens respiratory health. Pakistan's limited forest cover, rising temperatures, and stressed water systems add to environmental challenges. Persistent pollution in major cities highlights urgent need for action to protect public health and infrastructure.

# Russia awaits US reply on nuclear arms treaty

Shoigu warned the treaty ends soon, urging Moscow's proposal to curb nuclear risks

**MOSCOW**

Russia said Wednesday it is still waiting for a formal response from the United States regarding President Vladimir Putin's proposal to extend the last remaining Russian-U.S. arms control treaty, New START, which is set to expire on February 5.

New START limits the number of strategic nuclear warheads and the deployment of land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers by both countries. In September, Putin offered to maintain the treaty's limits for one year. Former President Donald Trump called the idea "a good idea" in October.

Sergei Shoigu, secretary of Russia's Security Council, said less than 100 days remain before the treaty's expiry. Speaking to reporters in Hanoi, he described Moscow's proposal as an opportunity to stop the "destructive movement" currently affecting nuclear arms control. Russia and the U.S. together hold over 10,000 nuclear warheads, around 87% of the global total.

China, with about 600 warheads, is the third-largest nuclear power. New START and other arms control treaties were created during the Cold War to reduce misunderstandings and slow the nuclear arms race. However, most treaties have eroded over the last decade as major powers modernize their arsenals amid geopolitical tensions, including Russia's war in Ukraine and NATO expansion. Each side blames the other for the breakdown of agreements.

The Trump administration's new National Security Strategy emphasizes reestablishing strategic stability with Russia, aiming to resume nuclear arms discussions. Rose Gottemoeller, former U.S. negotiator for New START, said extending the treaty with Russia could give the U.S. more time to address China's nuclear buildup while managing Russian deployments.

Analysts say a joint extension could stabilize global nuclear dynamics and reduce risks of a new arms race between major powers.

## S. Korea orders probe into church-politician ties

**SEOUL**

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday ordered a strict investigation into alleged illegal links between politicians and a religious group, amid claims that lawmakers from both ruling and opposition parties received illicit funds. The presidential office said Lee instructed authorities to conduct the probe "in a strict manner regardless of whether they are from the ruling or opposition parties or whether their positions are high or low." While he did not explicitly name the Unification Church, recent reports suggest the ruling Democratic Party (DP) may have accepted illegal political contributions from the church, which has already faced scrutiny for providing funds to opposition lawmakers ahead of the 2022 presidential election. A senior presidential official said Lee is determined to sever entrenched collusive ties between politics and religious organizations. The president emphasized that any illegal contacts or acts involving lawmakers should be investigated equally across parties. Lee has previously described systematic political interference by certain religious groups as unconstitutional and called for measures to dissolve organizations found guilty of illegal acts, citing a similar court ruling in Japan in March, where the Unification Church was dissolved for manipulative fundraising and stripped of tax-exempt status. Meanwhile, former Unification Church official Yun Young-ho, involved in a corruption case linked to former President Yoon Suk Yeol, is expected to name DP lawmakers allegedly involved in accepting funds during a final trial hearing.

# Over 100,000 Cambodians flee Thailand border clashes

**PHNOM PENH**

Over 100,000 Cambodian villagers have fled their homes as clashes with Thailand continue for the fourth day, a defence ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday. Lt. Gen. Maly Socheata, Undersecretary of State and spokesperson for Cambodia's Defence Ministry, said 101,129 people, including infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities, have sought safety in secure zones.

**Clashes have closed 514 schools in Cambodia's border provinces, impacting 130,000 students and 4,650 teachers, with Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, and Banteay Meanchey most affected**

Socheata said the Thai army used heavy weapons, including F-16 fighter jets, to target Cambodian military posts and civilian areas from Sunday afternoon until Wednesday morning. At least seven Cambodian civilians were killed and 20 others were injured during the ongoing conflict.

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged both countries to exercise restraint and solve their issues through dialogue and negotiations. The ministry called for adherence to the principles of the Joint Declaration, emphasizing that peaceful resolution is crucial for long-term relations between Cambodia and Thailand and the wider interests of ASEAN. Singaporeans were advised to avoid travel to border areas and follow local safety updates.

The clashes have forced the closure of 514 schools in border provinces, affecting around 130,000 students and 4,650 teachers, according to Cambodia's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, and Banteay Meanchey provinces are the most affected.

Since the violence began on Sunday, at least 16,568 families, totaling 54,550 people, have fled to safer areas. The Defence Ministry said Thai forces continued attacks overnight, resulting in two civilian deaths on a national road. The conflict shows no immediate signs of abating, leaving thousands displaced and essential services disrupted across the border regions.

## Democrat wins Miami mayoral race after decades

**MIAMI**

Democrat Eileen Higgins was elected Miami mayor, becoming the first member of her party to hold the post in nearly 30 years. Higgins defeated Republican Emilio Gonzalez, who had received public backing from former President Donald Trump, in a predominantly Hispanic city that has long been part of Trump's Florida base. Election results, called by CNN and the Associated Press shortly after polls closed, showed Higgins leading Gonzalez by 18 percentage points. The race, officially nonpartisan, drew national attention as a key test of voter sentiment in Trump's political stronghold.

Higgins, 61, a former Miami-Dade County commissioner, emphasized local issues in her victory statement, calling the result a moment that "turned the page on years of chaos and corruption" in the city. She becomes Miami's first woman mayor and the first non-Hispanic candidate to win the office since the 1990s. The last Democrat to hold the mayor's office was Xavier Suarez in 1997, the father of outgoing Republican mayor Francis Suarez.

The results indicate a shift in Miami-Dade, where Hispanic voters who supported Trump in 2024 may be returning to Democrats.

In the first round of voting on November 4, Higgins led with 36% of the vote, while Gonzalez received 18%, setting up the runoff. Although both candidates initially ran with little partisan focus, the race gained national significance after Trump's public endorsement of Gonzalez and the Democratic Party's support for Higgins.

## Venezuela accuses US of waging psychological warfare

**CARACAS**

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil said the United States is conducting "psychological warfare" against Venezuela after its economic sanctions failed to achieve results.

Speaking at the opening of the People's Assembly for Peace and Sovereignty of Our America in Caracas, Gil said the US is now relying on economic, military, and media power to exert pressure on Venezuela and the region.

"This is a very important challenge in the history of our republics," Gil said. The assembly brings together more than 500 delegates from around 50 countries.

The event, organized by Venezuela's National Council for Sovereignty and Peace, will focus on issues such as the US military threat, transnational crime, and the Monroe Doctrine, which Gil described as a strategy used by Washington to dominate the region.

Gil noted that since August, the United States has maintained a strong military presence in the Caribbean, claiming it is part of anti-drug operations. Venezuela, however, views it as an attempt to promote regime change.

Media reports say US President Donald Trump set a November 28 deadline for President Nicolas Maduro to step down, which Maduro refused. During a November 21 phone call, Maduro demanded "global amnesty" for himself and others, rejecting US pressure. The assembly continues discussions on regional security, sovereignty, and ways to counter perceived US influence in Latin America, Gil added.

## Twelve Died in Southern China residential fire

**SHANTOU**

Twelve people died in a fire at a four-storey residential building in Shantou, a city in southern China, authorities said on Wednesday.

The fire started on Tuesday night at 9:20 p.m. local time and was put out about 40 minutes later, according to state news agency Xinhua. Rescue teams rushed to the scene, but the flames had already claimed twelve lives.

Officials have opened an investigation to find out what caused the blaze. The incident has raised concern about fire safety in residential buildings across China.

This tragedy comes soon after Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades, which killed 160 people. In response, Chinese leaders have called for the removal of safety hazards in housing and strict inspections of fire safety standards.

Last month, China began nationwide checks on high-rise buildings to prevent similar disasters.

The Shantou fire adds to a growing list of deadly incidents in the country in recent years.

Earlier this year, twenty people died in a nursing home fire in Hebei province. Weeks later, a restaurant fire in northeastern China killed twenty-two people.

Authorities continue to urge building owners and residents to follow safety rules to prevent such tragedies. Local emergency services remain on alert as investigations continue.

## Bushfire forces evacuation in Northeast Tasmania

**CANBERRA**

Residents of Stieglitz, a coastal town in northeastern Tasmania, have been told to evacuate immediately after a bushfire destroyed two structures, authorities said. The town, about 190 kilometres from Hobart, has around 600 residents. The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) issued an emergency warning Wednesday morning, saying the uncontrolled fire poses a serious threat to lives and property. Officials warned of thick smoke, flying embers, and spot fires that could endanger homes before the main fire arrives. Earlier this week, more than 30 homes were damaged or destroyed in nearby Dolphin Sands, 105 kilometres northeast of Hobart. Nineteen homes were completely destroyed, and 14 others suffered damage. Over 120 other assets, including garages, outbuildings, and electrical infrastructure, were also affected, TFS said.

Although the fire in Dolphin Sands was contained by Monday morning, authorities warned it was still unsafe for residents to return.

## US may treat SA differently under AGOA

**WASHINGTON**

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said that South Africa could be treated differently than other African countries if the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is extended. The trade initiative, which provides duty-free access to the U.S. market for many African goods, expired in September. Greer spoke at a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing, saying the Trump administration is open to a one-year AGOA extension. However, he described South Africa as a "unique problem" and suggested it could be excluded if Congress supports such a move.

He emphasized that South Africa would need to lower tariffs on U.S. products and reduce non-tariff barriers if it wants the U.S. to remove its 30% duties on South African imports. In August, Washington imposed these tariffs after Pretoria failed to respond to multiple U.S. trade proposals. A spokesperson for South Africa's trade ministry stated that the country remains committed to being included in any AGOA extension and will continue lobbying for the initiative in its current form. Tensions between the two countries have escalated following the U.S. boycott of South Africa's G20 summit last month and its decision to exclude the country from the next G20 meeting in Miami. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and former President Donald Trump have accused South Africa of discrimination against white citizens, claims widely discredited. Greer highlighted that South Africa, as the continent's most developed economy, has an industrial and agricultural base and should import more U.S. products. He added that the proposed one-year AGOA extension would allow the administration and Congress to work on improving trade relations while addressing current barriers.

## SU DO KU

**Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?**

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| 7 | | 8 | 5 | | | 3 | | 4 |
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| 9 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 9 |

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

MARITIME INNOVATION EXCHANGE

# *Indian Navy Chief strengthens Brazil maritime ties*

**BRASILIA**

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi met with Brazilian Navy Commander Admiral Marcos Sampaio Olsen to discuss ways to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries. The discussions focused on operational coordination, training exchanges, sharing information, hydrographic collaboration, and improving maritime domain awareness.

Both sides explored opportunities to expand cooperation in defence industry, technology development, innovation, capacity building, and exchange of best practices. The meeting emphasized strengthening strategic alignment and deepening the India-Brazil naval partnership, supporting stability in the global maritime commons, particularly in the Global South.

Admiral Tripathi's official visit to Brazil, running from December 9 to 12, aims to consolidate the growing maritime partnership, considered a key pillar of the broader India–Brazil Strategic Partnership. During the visit, the Navy Chief will also meet senior Brazilian officials, including Defence Minister Jose Mucio and Chief of the Joint Staff Admiral Renato Rodrigues de Aguiar Freire.

The discussions are expected to review ongoing bilateral naval cooperation, enhance operational linkages, and identify new areas for collaboration. The visit also includes engagements with operational commands, naval bases, and shipyards of the Brazilian Navy. Key topics include shared maritime priorities, naval interoperability, capacity building, and collaboration within multilateral frameworks, with a focus on South-South cooperation.

The Ministry of Defence said the visit highlights India's commitment to strengthening ties with the Brazilian Navy through maritime security, professional exchanges, and capacity development. Both navies reaffirmed their resolve to enhance collaboration, contributing to regional and global maritime stability and the safety of shared maritime routes.

## QUICK READ

### Meesho shares jump strongly on market debut

**New Delhi**

Meesho's shares soared nearly 55% above their IPO price of ₹111 on their first trading day, showing strong investor interest in new tech companies. The firm raised ₹5,420 crore, and its issue was subscribed 79 times. Meesho connects small manufacturers with customers in smaller towns and is known for low-cost products. Despite reporting losses last year, investors focused on its rapid growth. Its debut comes during a busy year for IPOs in India, with several tech startups also performing well as the country becomes a major global listing market.

### Apple opens fifth store in Noida

**Noida**

Apple has opened its first retail store in Noida, becoming the fifth store in India. Located in DLF Mall of India, the store offers iPhones, iPads, MacBooks, and Apple Watches, along with personalized support and workshops called 'Today at Apple'. Customers can use Apple Trade In, financing, and device setup services. Over 80 staff members will assist shoppers. Apple's earlier stores in Mumbai and Delhi earned strong sales, showing India's growing tech market. The Noida outlet aims to bring products closer to people while supporting digital education and creative learning.

### Indian pharma market growth remains muted

**New Delhi**

India's pharmaceutical market grew 9.1% year-on-year in November 2025, continuing nearly three years of single-digit growth, Nomura reported. Price increases contributed 5.5% and new products 2.9%, while volume growth stayed low at 0.6%. Branded generics faced pressure from trade, generic, and private-label medicines, limiting expansion. Top-10 companies performed better, with 9.5% growth over the past 12 months, helped by stronger regulatory control. However, key brands lagged behind, growing only 5.4% in November. Analysts say the market shows modest recovery, but demand momentum remains slow, keeping overall growth steady yet muted.

# Pravasi Rajasthani Divas: Rajasthan unveils 13 new policies

These initiatives aim to boost Rajasthan's economy, attract global investors, and promote innovation and employment

**JAIPUR**

The Pravasi Rajasthani Divas celebration saw NRIs and leading industrialists from India and abroad gather at JECC, Sitapura, Jaipur, as the state announced 13 new policies aimed at boosting investment, innovation, and employment. The event also featured MoU signings and a groundbreaking ceremony for proposals worth Rs 1 lakh crore.

Governor Haribhau Bagde, Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, and Union Ministers including Piyush Goyal, Manohar Lal Khattar, and Bhupendra Yadav attended the inauguration. Other dignitaries such as Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, C.R. Patil, and Arjun Ram Meghwal, along with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, participated in the day's proceedings.

Key industry figures like Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal and Tata Power CEO Praveer Sinha addressed the gathering. State Industries Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore and cabinet members were also present.

**THE NEW POLICIES COVER A BROAD SPECTRUM, INCLUDING**

- Industry promotion & trade
- Global Capability Centre (GCC) policy
- Tourism & Pravasi Rajasthani policy
- AI, Machine Learning, and Space & Aero-Defence
- Green Growth Credit, Agriculture & Food Processing
- IT Outsourcing, Forest & Agroforestry, Sports, and Vehicle Scrapping policies

These initiatives are designed to accelerate Rajasthan's economic growth, attract global investors, and foster innovation and employment opportunities.

The programme began at 11 a.m. with an inaugural ceremony, followed by sector-specific sessions on industry, energy, water, tourism, mining, education, and health. Outstanding NRIs were honored with the Pravasi Rajasthani Samman, and the day concluded with a cultural showcase celebrating Rajasthani heritage.

Representatives from 26 Rajasthan Chapters across India and abroad—including cities like Munich, Dubai, Singapore, Tokyo, London, and New York—attended to explore collaborative opportunities leveraging NRI expertise for state development.

# RBI Governor calls banks to cut costs

**NEW DELHI**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has urged top officials of public and select private banks to lower intermediation costs and improve efficiency. The appeal comes after a 125 basis point reduction in policy rates since February, aimed at boosting financial inclusion and supporting sustainable growth.

Governor Malhotra highlighted that the combination of lower policy rates and wider use of technology should help banks operate more efficiently while reducing costs for customers. He added that banks should remain vigilant despite steady improvements in their health and operations in 2025.

The RBI chief emphasized the need for banks to strengthen internal systems, address customer grievances, and safeguard against rising digital fraud risks through robust, intelligence-driven measures. He also appreciated banks' work on re-KYC and unclaimed deposits and encouraged proactive outreach and awareness campaigns to benefit citizens.

This interaction with senior bank management is part of RBI's ongoing engagement with regulated entities, following similar meetings earlier this year in January. Officials discussed policy, supervisory, and operational matters to improve efficiency and customer services.

**Governor Malhotra stated that lower policy rates and greater technology use can improve bank efficiency, reduce customer costs, but banks must stay vigilant despite operational and health improvements in 2025**

The discussions followed the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to lower the benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 percent, the lowest level in three years. Data from RBI showed that domestic term deposit rates dropped by 102 basis points between February and September, while new rupee loan rates fell by 73 basis points, reflecting partial transmission of rate cuts.

In addition, the RBI announced a two-month campaign starting January 1, 2026, to resolve all complaints pending with the RBI Ombudsman for over a month, further strengthening accountability and customer support.

*Analysts link momentum to bullish sentiment, active PE/VC exits, abundant liquidity, and participation from investors despite underperforming new listings*

# India's IPO pipeline set to cross Rs 2.55 lakh crore

**NEW DELHI**

Indian companies are preparing for a strong initial public offering (IPO) year in 2026, with a pipeline exceeding Rs 2.55 lakh crore, as firms aim to meet robust investor demand. So far, 88 companies have received SEBI approval to raise around Rs 1.16 lakh crore, while 104 others await clearance to raise nearly Rs 1.4 lakh crore.

The surge follows a record 2025, when about 100 firms raised Rs 1.77 lakh crore through mainboard IPOs, the highest since 2007. This was slightly higher than 2024, when 91 IPOs raised Rs 1.6 lakh crore, and a significant jump from 2023's 57 IPOs raising over Rs 49,500 crore.

Market analysts attribute this momentum to bullish investor sentiment, active private equity and venture capital exits, and abundant liquidity in domestic markets. Participation came from foreign portfolio investors, retail buyers, high-net-worth individuals, and mutual funds, even though many newly listed shares are trading below their initial offer prices.

In total, promoters, private equity, and venture capital firms offloaded more than Rs 1.1 lakh crore through offers for sale (OFS) this year. Analysts noted that companies are using strong demand to secure funding before global conditions tighten. India has also simplified listing processes and encouraged large IPOs.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed reforms in November to address pre-IPO pledged shares and streamline public issue disclosures. This includes allowing depositories to mark pledged shares as "non-transferable" during the lock-in period, improving transparency and investor confidence.

Overall, 2026 is shaping up to be another strong year for IPOs in India, reflecting both investor appetite and companies' eagerness to raise funds.

# Kotak predicts strong equities, gold to shine in 2026

**MUMBAI**

Kotak Securities has released its Market Outlook 2026, highlighting optimism for Indian equities and commodities amid global volatility. The report predicts equities will remain strong, supported by robust earnings and policy measures, while gold is expected to continue its role as a safe-haven asset.

Shripal Shah, MD & CEO of Kotak Securities, said India's equity market has significant untapped potential. A recent SEBI survey revealed only 9.5% of households actively invest, despite 63% being aware of market products. He emphasized the need for brokerage firms to make investing more inclusive and accessible, especially with rising participation from young investors.

The report notes Indian equities rebounded strongly in 2025 after a 17% correction from September highs. Large-cap stocks led the recovery, with automobiles, banks, and metals outperforming, while IT and FMCG lagged. Domestic investors helped cushion foreign portfolio outflows, reflecting market resilience.

Kotak projects Nifty 50 profits to grow 17.6% in FY27E and 14.8% in FY28E. Nifty targets for December 2026 include a base case of 29,120, a bull case of 32,032, and a bear case of 26,208. Preferred sectors for 2026 include BFSI, technology, healthcare, and hospitality.

In commodities, gold rose over 55% globally in 2025, surpassing $4,000 per ounce, with Indian prices up 60% due to rupee depreciation. Silver gained 100%, while crude oil fell 19%, and base metals like copper and aluminium remained firm amid structural supply constraints.

The report underscores investor confidence, sectoral opportunities, and commodity trends that are likely to shape India's financial markets in 2026.

## S. Korea, India discuss stronger economic partnership

**SEOUL**

South Korea's Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo met the new Indian Ambassador to South Korea, Gourangalal Das, to talk about ways to strengthen trade and economic ties between the two countries. Officials said both sides agreed that the current trade agreement, known as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), needs improvement so that business between the nations can grow faster. They also promised to keep close contact and work toward restarting talks on updating the CEPA as soon as possible.

During the meeting, Yeo asked for India's support for the many South Korean companies operating there. Over 670 Korean firms, including well-known names like Hyundai Motor and LG Electronics, are active in the Indian market but still face non-tariff barriers and other challenges. Yeo said India is a key partner for South Korea and expressed hope for deeper cooperation in areas such as shipbuilding, critical minerals, and other industries that have strong growth potential.

Ambassador Das said he would work actively to expand economic and trade cooperation during his time in South Korea.

Last month, President Lee Jae Myung held separate meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during the G20 Summit in Johannesburg. In his meeting with PM Modi, President Lee shared hopes for stronger ties in the economy, culture, security, and people-to-people exchanges. PM Modi praised South Korea's advanced shipbuilding technology and said he hoped to build closer cooperation in defence and future-focused industries. Both leaders agreed to push discussions at the working level and explore new areas like artificial intelligence.

PM Modi also invited President Lee to visit India, and President Lee said he hoped to travel there to help strengthen bilateral relations.

## Rabi crop sowing surpasses 479 lakh hectares

**NEW DELHI**

The sowing of rabi crops in India this winter season has crossed 479 lakh hectares, marking a rise of 27.89 lakh hectares compared to the same time last year, according to government data. The increase is expected to boost crop production, improve farmers' incomes, and help control food inflation.

The Agriculture Ministry reported that the area under pulses has reached 106.21 lakh hectares, up from 105.78 lakh hectares last year. Wheat sowing has risen sharply by 23.59 lakh hectares, covering 241.40 lakh hectares compared to 217.81 lakh hectares previously. Coarse cereals like jowar, bajra, and ragi now cover 36.28 lakh hectares, up from 35.94 lakh hectares, while oilseeds such as rapeseed and mustard have increased by 2.40 lakh hectares to 84.14 lakh hectares.

Officials said better monsoon rains have supported sowing, especially in unirrigated areas, which make up nearly half of India's farmland. This favorable condition has encouraged farmers to plant more crops this season.

The government has also taken measures to ensure profitability for farmers. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved an increase in the minimum support prices (MSP) for all mandated rabi crops for the 2026-27 marketing season. Announcing MSPs before sowing allows farmers to plan their cropping decisions and maximise earnings.

Overall, the combination of higher sown area and supportive MSPs is expected to result in better harvests this year, benefiting farmers and helping maintain food price stability across the country.

**CLAIM YOUR WEALTH**

# *PM urges public to claim forgotten money*

**NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged citizens to claim their unclaimed financial assets, saying that large amounts of money lying forgotten in banks, insurance firms, and mutual fund companies can be turned into new opportunities for millions of people. Writing on LinkedIn, he said the government's "Your Money, Your Right" initiative aims to help every citizen recover what rightfully belongs to them.

PM Modi revealed several striking figures during the Hindustan Times Leade rship Summit. He said Indian banks currently hold Rs 78,000 crore of unclaimed money, insurance companies have Rs 14,000 crore, mutual funds have Rs 3,000 crore, and Rs 9,000 crore worth of dividends also remain unclaimed. He noted that these amounts represent the savings and investments of countless families and should not remain unused.

The "Your Money, Your Right" initiative, launched in October 2025, was designed to make the process of tracing and claiming such funds simple and transparent. Several dedicated online platforms have been set up: RBI's UDGAM portal for unclaimed bank deposits, IRDAI's Bima Bharosa portal for insurance proceeds, SEBI's MITRA portal for mutual fund amounts, and the IEPFA portal for unpaid dividends and unclaimed shares.

PM Modi said that by December 2025, facilitation camps had been organised in 477 districts across the country, including remote areas. Through joint efforts by the government, regulators, banks, and financial institutions, nearly Rs 2,000 crore has already been returned to rightful owners.

He asked citizens to check whether they or their family members have any unclaimed deposits or investments and to make use of the online portals and local camps. He added that the movement will be expanded in the coming days.

**Your Money, Your Right' Empowers Citizens Nationwide**

Union Minister Piyush Goyal called the 'Your Money, Your Right' campaign a "transformative initiative" to make India financially empowered. Launched on October 4, 2025, the program helps citizens reclaim unclaimed bank deposits, insurance payouts, dividends, shares, mutual funds, and pensions. In two months, about Rs 2,000 crore has been returned. The campaign runs across all states and Union Territories, with facilitation camps in 477 districts. PM Modi highlighted Rs 1,04,000 crore in unclaimed assets, urging citizens to convert them into opportunities. The drive promotes financial inclusion, transparency, and nationwide awareness of forgotten funds

# Amazon to invest over $35 billion in India

**NEW DELHI**

US e-commerce giant Amazon announced plans to invest more than $35 billion in India across its businesses through 2030. The investment will focus on three main areas: AI-driven digitisation, export growth, and job creation, along with overall business expansion.

At Amazon's annual MSME summit, 'Smbhav', the company said the investments will support India's national priorities by enhancing AI capabilities, improving logistics, promoting small business growth, and generating employment opportunities.

Amit Agarwal, Senior VP Emerging Markets at Amazon, highlighted the company's role in India's digital transformation over the past 15 years. He said the new investment will help Amazon provide AI benefits to 15 million small businesses and hundreds of millions of shoppers, while also offering AI education and career opportunities to 4 million government school students.

Amazon aims to create 1 million additional jobs by 2030 and boost cumulative e-commerce exports to $80 billion. The company has also launched 'Accelerate Exports', a program designed to connect digital entrepreneurs with manufacturers to strengthen India's manufacturing and export capabilities.

The firm noted that its efforts will accelerate India's digital transformation, strengthen infrastructure, and promote innovation. Over the years, Amazon has invested in both physical and digital infrastructure, helping small businesses expand globally and creating millions of jobs.

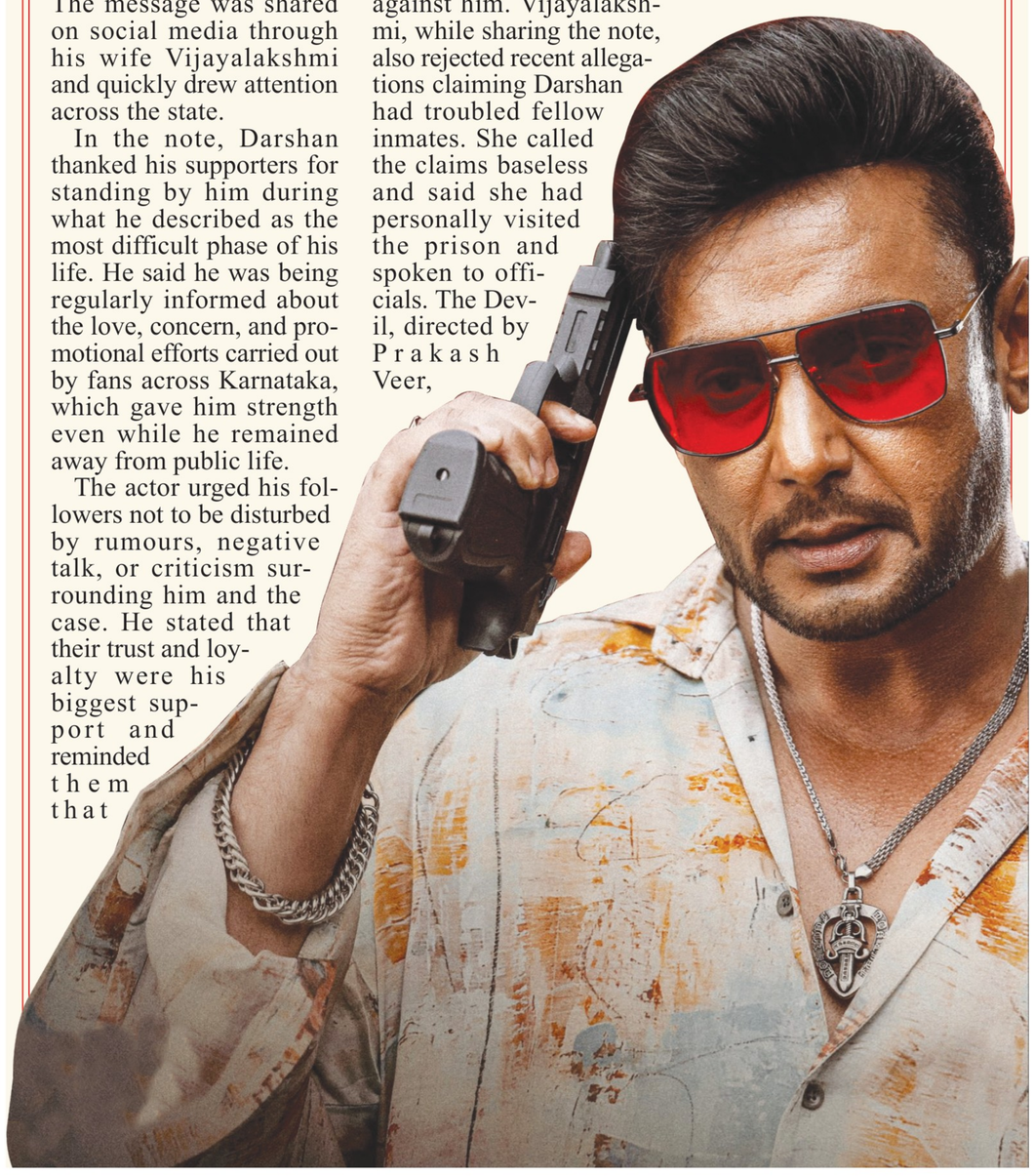
# Darshan Appeals From Jail, Seeks Fans' Support For Film

Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is currently lodged in Ballari Central Prison in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, has sent an emotional message to his fans ahead of his film The Devil releasing this weekend. The message was shared on social media through his wife Vijayalakshmi and quickly drew attention across the state.

In the note, Darshan thanked his supporters for standing by him during what he described as the most difficult phase of his life. He said he was being regularly informed about the love, concern, and promotional efforts carried out by fans across Karnataka, which gave him strength even while he remained away from public life.

The actor urged his followers not to be disturbed by rumours, negative talk, or criticism surrounding him and the case. He stated that their trust and loyalty were his biggest support and reminded them that they were like family to him. Darshan appealed to fans to respond to criticism not through arguments, but by ensuring the grand success of The Devil.

He added that the film's success would be their collective answer to every doubt and question raised against him. Vijayalakshmi, while sharing the note, also rejected recent allegations claiming Darshan had troubled fellow inmates. She called the claims baseless and said she had personally visited the prison and spoken to officials. The Devil, directed by Prakash Veer, features Rachana Rai, Tulasi, Achyuth Kumar, Mahesh Manjrekar, Srinivas Prabhu, Shobhraj, and Bigg Boss Kannada fame Gilli Nata. Darshan and 16 others were arrested in June 2024 in the case related to the alleged kidnapping and murder of Renukaswamy.



# SHEEZAN KHAN SHARES EXPERIENCE OF DANGEROUS FIRE SEQUENCE SHOOT

Actor Sheezan Khan has spoken about performing a risky fire sequence in his television show Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan. He said the stunt was one of the most challenging experiences of his acting career. The actor revealed that he performed the entire sequence himself without using a body double. When he first heard about the scene, he was unsure how it would be executed. However, shooting in cold weather made the fire feel manageable, as temperatures were around nine degrees.

Sheezan said he was excited to perform the sequence, especially the bike stunt shown in the promo. He added that the team trusted him completely and allowed him to do the skid scene on his own. Despite the difficulty, he described the experience as exciting and memorable. The shoot took three full days, with safety given top priority. Fire from crackers made the scene more complex, but all precautions were followed. Special care was taken for co-actor Amandeep, whose costume could have caught fire. Sheezan said the upcoming episode will mark a major turn in the story. So far, Siddhu's love for Sneha has been one-sided, but this moment will change how she sees him, he added.

The actor believes viewers will enjoy this new phase and connect with the emotional shift in the narrative. He thanked the production team, action crew, and co-stars for their constant support, discipline, and teamwork during the demanding shoot, calling it smooth, safe, and professionally handled throughout the schedule without injuries or major setbacks reported.

## First Look Reveals Aadarsha Kutumbam House Number Forty Seven

Director Trivikram has unveiled the first look and title of his upcoming film starring Venkatesh, marking their first collaboration. The film, titled Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 – AK47, breaks away from Trivikram's usual naming style while retaining the popular A sentiment.

The title and poster hint at a family entertainer blended with an action element, suggested by the AK47 reference. The first look shows Venkatesh in a stylish, dignified family-man avatar, promising a strong emotional connect with audiences.

The film went on floors today at the Aluminium Factory location in Hyderabad, officially beginning its shooting journey. The makers describe the project as a heartwarming story packed with entertainment, emotion, and mass appeal.

Trivikram, known for weaving humor, relationships, and simple life philosophies into his scripts, aims to deliver a story that resonates across all age groups. Venkatesh steps into a role shaped by the director's trademark storytelling, combining warmth with strength. Earlier, reports suggested the title Bandhu Mitrula Abhinandanalatho, but the team finally returned to an A titled choice.

## Vaa Vaathiyaar Gets U/A Clearance, December Release Confirmed

Tamil actor Karthi is all set to return to the big screen with his upcoming action film Vaa Vaathiyaar, which has officially received a U/A certificate from the censor board. Directed by Nalan Kumarasamy, the film stars Krithi Shetty as the female lead and is scheduled for a theatrical release on December 12. The makers announced the certification update through social media, sharing a poster confirming the U/A status. The announcement created excitement among fans as the release date draws closer. With censorship formalities completed, the film is ready to hit theatres this weekend.

In Vaa Vaathiyaar, Karthi plays a police officer in a mass-filled role. His character is also shown as a devoted admirer of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, adding a nostalgic and emotional layer to the story. Krithi Shetty makes her Tamil debut in the film, portraying a gypsy spirit reader, marking a unique entry into Kollywood. Karunakaran appears as Karthi's subordinate, providing lighter moments. The supporting cast includes Sathyaraj, Rajkiran, Anand Raj, Shilpa Manjunath, G.M. Sundar, Ramesh Thilak, P.L. Thenappan, Vidhya Borgia, Nivas Adithan and Madhur Mittal. The trailer hints at political intrigue, action, and drama, with visuals of Karthi riding a horse and wielding a whip adding a quirky touch.

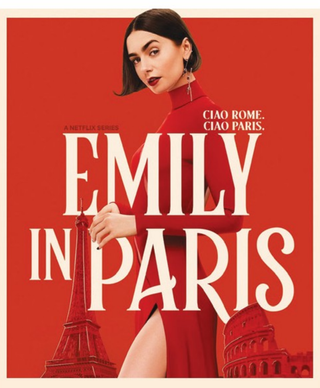
Cinematography is handled by George C. Williams, with editing by Vetre Krishnan. Action sequences are choreographed by Anal Arasu, while music is composed by Santhosh Narayanan.

## Jitendra Kumar, Mahvash Team Up For Remo D'Souza Romcom

Actors Jitendra Kumar and Mahvash will headline the upcoming romantic comedy Tedhi Hain Par Meri Hain, presented by filmmaker Remo D'Souza and directed by Jayesh Pradhaan. The film promises a light-hearted yet emotional take on relationships that are imperfect but deeply meaningful.

Written by Pradeep Singh, the film explores love that grows through flaws, confusion, and everyday chaos. The makers describe it as a story that celebrates honesty in relationships rather than ideal perfection. The project is produced by Ishan Shilpi Verma, Vishal Tyagi, and Anwar Ali Khan, in association with Kuree Studio and Shaisha Motion Pictures. Music for the film will be composed by National Award winner Ismail Darbaar.

Speaking about the film, Remo D'Souza said he has always enjoyed stories that feel real while carrying a special spark. He added that the film celebrates imperfection and finding comfort in someone's flaws. Remo also praised Jitendra Kumar, calling him a relatable actor who balances comedy and emotion with ease. Jitendra Kumar said the film's title perfectly reflects the idea of true and unfiltered love.




## Emily In Paris Season Four Recap

Fans of the hit series Emily In Paris are eagerly waiting for the Season Five premiere, making it the right time to revisit the key events of Season Four. The fourth season focused on love, choices, and career pressure, placing Emily Cooper at the centre of complicated relationships.

Emily's long and emotional romance with Gabriel once again took focus. While their chemistry remained strong, deeper problems surfaced. Emily slowly realised that Gabriel would always place his family and personal priorities first. This understanding led her to make a painful but mature decision to step away from the relationship. As Emily moved on, Alfie returned to her life unexpectedly. Their reunion reopened old feelings and brought fresh confusion. Just as Emily began finding balance, a new man entered her world. Marcello Muratori arrived with confidence and charm, quickly standing out. He invited Emily to Rome, creating excitement and concern at the same time.

## Akhanda 2 Set For Massive Release With Premium Tickets

After weeks of uncertainty, the makers of Akhanda 2, starring Nandamuri Balakrishna and directed by Boyapati Sreenu, have officially confirmed its theatrical release on December 11, with special premiere shows planned the same day. The announcement has thrilled fans eagerly awaiting the sequel. Adding to the excitement, the Andhra Pradesh government has approved increased ticket prices for the film's first 10 days, allowing premium rates across the state. This move is expected to boost openings and create a festive atmosphere in theatres. The production team thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Kandula Durgesh for supporting the premiere shows and revised pricing, ensuring the film reaches audiences in a truly grand manner.

## *Arasan Shooting Begins In Kovilpatti, Fans Await Big Release*

The much-awaited film Arasan, starring Silambarasan and directed by Vetri Maaran, has officially begun shooting in Kovilpatti, sparking excitement among fans. The makers announced the start of production by releasing behind-the-scenes visuals, while tight security at the sets ensures that key scenes remain confidential.

The first shooting schedule will run for about 20 days in and around Kovilpatti. On the opening day, scenes featuring Silambarasan, Kishore, and Andrea Jeremiah were filmed. Footage from the set showed Vetri Maaran and Silambarasan engaged in serious creative discussions, hinting at the film's intense and realistic tone. Their long-awaited collaboration has already raised expectations in the industry.

Previously, the project faced delays due to contractual issues involving Silambarasan and a former production house. The actor resolved the matter himself, allowing filming to begin smoothly without further hurdles.

Arasan is set entirely against the backdrop of North Chennai and aims to present the region's people and lifestyle with authenticity. Vijay Sethupathi has been confirmed as the antagonist, adding weight to the cast. Vetri Maaran has also revealed that characters from his acclaimed film Vada Chennai will appear in this project. With music by Anirudh Ravichander, Arasan has quickly become one of Kollywood's most anticipated films.

## Delay Sparks Competition, Director Laments

The Telugu film Mowgli 2025, starring Roshan Kanakala and Sakshi Sagar Mhadolkar, will now release in theatres on December 13. The film was earlier scheduled to hit screens on December 12. The makers decided to push the release by a day following the confirmation that Balakrishna's Akhanda 2 will arrive in cinemas on December 12.

The announcement came shortly after an emotional post by director Sandeep Raj, who spoke openly about his struggles with film releases. In a social media post, he expressed that both Colour Photo and Mowgli 2025 seemed to face repeated bad luck at crucial moments. He questioned whether he himself was the reason for these hurdles and said his dream of seeing his name on the big screen was becoming increasingly difficult.

Sandeep Raj praised the dedication of the cast and crew, including Roshan Kanakala, Sakshi, cinematographer Rama Maruthi, and several others, stating that the film was made with great passion and hard work. He hoped the film would succeed at least for their sake.

The trailer of Mowgli 2025 presents a story rooted in forest life. Roshan plays Mowgli, a man closely connected to the jungle, who falls in love with Jasmine, a speech- and hearing-impaired woman played by Sakshi. The conflict grows with the arrival of a ruthless police officer and leads to intense drama centered on love and justice.

Directed by Sandeep Raj of Colour Photo fame, the film is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Kriti Prasad under People Media Factory. Music is composed by Kala Bhairava, with editing by Kodati Pawan Kalyan. The film has generated strong expectations among audiences and cinema lovers alike.

# Messi Makes History as MLS' First Back-to-Back MVP Winner

**FORT LAUDERDALE**

The Argentine superstar's record-breaking season with Inter Miami cements his place as one of the greatest in soccer.

Messi's outstanding performance this season included 29 goals and 19 assists, earning him a commanding 70.4% of the MVP vote—the largest margin of victory since 2015.

This marks his second consecutive MVP win, making him just the second player ever to win the award twice, joining Preki (1997, 2003).

Messi's remarkable consistency has made him the dominant force in MLS, cementing his place as the league's most valuable player.

The Argentine superstar, who has accumulated a host of individual honors throughout his career, expressed gratitude to his teammates, stating that his success wouldn't be possible without their support.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber praised Messi for not only his performance on the field but also his impact off it, calling him "a unicorn" in the sport.

> Lionel Messi has made MLS history, becoming the first player ever to win the league's MVP award in back-to-back seasons

In addition to his MVP award, Messi completed a historic trifecta in 2025 by winning the Golden Boot as the league's top scorer, showcasing his unmatched ability to influence games.

His continued dominance has elevated MLS, drawing new fans and further enhancing the league's global profile.

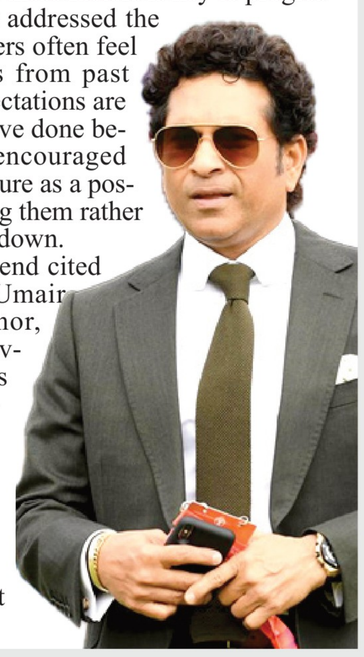
With his 2025 MVP win, Messi now joins an elite list of athletes across major U.S. sports to win back-to-back MVPs, a feat previously unseen in MLS until now.

"Great players always believe they can win more," said Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham, reflecting on Messi's relentless pursuit of excellence.

# Tendulkar Urges Young Players to Embrace Passion for Success

**MUMBAI :** Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, shared valuable insights for young players aiming to make their mark in the world of cricket. Speaking ahead of the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) season 3 auction, Tendulkar stressed that passion and fire are essential for players to progress in their careers. Recounting his own journey, Tendulkar admitted that his love for cricket drove him to work tirelessly. "I was madly in love with the sport and all I wanted was to play for India. I spent 12 hours a day training, even during my summer holidays, and would do it for weeks on end," said Tendulkar. He added that without this level of passion and commitment, players would find it hard to move forward.

The cricket icon also highlighted the importance of a well-rounded approach, which includes hard work, discipline, planning, and timely execution. "You need the right guidance, and when the moment comes, you have to perform," he said, emphasizing that a combination of these factors is key to progression. Tendulkar also addressed the pressure young players often feel due to expectations from past performances. "Expectations are a result of what you've done before," he said. He encouraged players to view pressure as a positive force, motivating them rather than weighing them down.



The cricketing legend cited examples of Irfan Umair and Abhishek Dalhor, who earned senior-level opportunities through their performances in the ISPL. Tendulkar urged players to focus on self-improvement and to take risks. "Climb the mountain for yourself, not for others.

# LIVERPOOL EDGE INTER MILAN IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**PARIS**

Liverpool secured a crucial 1-0 win over Inter Milan in the Champions League, a victory that saw them rise into the top eight and keep their hopes of direct qualification to the last 16 alive. Dominik Szoboszlai netted a late penalty, breaking Inter's 18-match unbeaten home run in Europe, as the Premier League champions battled without the unsettled Mohamed Salah. Szoboszlai stepped up in the dying minutes to convert from the spot, following a foul on substitute Florian Wirtz by Inter's Alessandro Bastoni. The win was vital for Liverpool, who have faced turbulence recently, including Salah's public criticism of manager Arne Slot after a string of poor results.

"It's a huge result," said Liverpool defender Andy Robertson. "We knew we were coming to a tough place against a team in good form. We had to show fight."

Despite Salah's absence, Liverpool's resilience paid off as they claimed their fourth win in six Champions League matches, keeping them in the hunt for a top-eight finish and avoiding the play-off round.

In contrast, Chelsea endured a disappointing 2-1 defeat at Atalanta. Despite taking the lead through Joao Pedro's first-half goal, the Blues were pegged back by Gianluca Scamacca's header and Charles De Ketelaere's powerful strike late on, which sealed Atalanta's comeback.

"We need to learn from this," Joao Pedro told. "It's hard to recover when you concede goals quickly." The loss dropped Chelsea to 11th in the group, with Atalanta sitting in third place, just two points behind leaders Arsenal and Bayern Munich.

### LIVERPOOL RISE, CHELSEA SLIP

Liverpool strengthened their Champions League campaign with a crucial 1-0 victory over Inter Milan, secured by a late Dominik Szoboszlai penalty after Florian Wirtz was fouled. The win ended Inter's 18-match unbeaten European home run and pushed Liverpool into the top eight, keeping their hopes of direct entry into the last 16 alive. Despite missing Mohamed Salah, the team showed resilience, with Andy Robertson calling it a "huge result."Chelsea, meanwhile, suffered a setback with a 2-1 defeat at Atalanta. Joao Pedro's early strike wasn't enough as Gianluca Scamacca and Charles De Ketelaere completed a strong comeback for the hosts.

# F1's Biggest Rule Change Ever: Teen Debuts, Cadillac Joins in 2026

**LONDON**

Formula 1 is entering a new era in 2026, with significant changes that will shake up the sport. The 2025 season saw McLaren dominate both the Constructors' and Driver's Championships, but next year promises a bold transformation.

The biggest shift comes with new technical regulations. Cars will be smaller, lighter, and more sustainable, using fully renewable fuels. The engines, still 1.6-litre V6 turbo hybrids, now feature a 50-50 split between electric and internal combustion power. Key changes also include new aerodynamic rules, with movable wings to boost straight-line speed and increased energy recovery. These changes promise to affect racing dynamics, and while drivers like Lewis Hamilton are cautiously optimistic, the full impact remains unknown.

As part of the shake-up, F1 will welcome two new teams. Cadillac, backed by General Motors, enters the grid with seasoned drivers Valtteri Bottas and Sergio Perez.

They'll use Ferrari power units for the first three seasons while developing their own engines for 2029.

Meanwhile, Sauber becomes Audi, as the German manufacturer takes full control of the Swiss team. Audi's driver line-up includes Nico Hulkenberg and Gabriel Bortoleto.

F1 fans can also look forward to a fresh face in the paddock: 18-year-old Arvid Lindblad. The British teenager will make his debut at Red Bull's sister team, bringing even more excitement to the new season.

# India Sweep Switzerland 4-0 in Squash World Cup Opener

**RESULTS**

**Pool A:** Hong Kong, China 4-0 South Korea;

**Pool B:** India 4-0 Switzerland;

**Pool D:** Japan 4-0 IR Iran.

**CHENNAI**

Hosts India made a perfect start to their Squash World Cup campaign, cruising past Switzerland 4-0 in their opening tie at the Express Avenue Mall in Chennai.

The Indian team, which includes a mix of experienced players and promising newcomers, dominated their Swiss counterparts in a Pool B fixture.

The match was set in motion by debutant Velevan Senthilkumar, who faced Robin Gadola. Senthilkumar had to overcome initial difficulties with the court conditions but managed to seal a hard-fought victory.

"The ball was bouncy throughout the match due to the warmer weather, but I adjusted and managed to get into my rhythm," said Senthilkumar after the win.

Anahat Singh, India's 17-year-old sensation, doubled the lead with a commanding 3-0 win over Celine Walser in just 13 minutes, leaving no doubts about India's dominance. "It was a great win, and I am happy to help the team," Anahat commented. Abhay Singh, a key player in India's gold-winning team at the 2023 Asian Games, clinched the third victory by defeating Louai Hafez in straight games.

The match was effectively sealed, but Joshna Chinappa, India's veteran and Commonwealth Games gold medalist, finished the tie with a victory over Stella Kaufmann.

India, who won the bronze in 2023, are looking to improve on their performance and have assembled a well-balanced squad. Their next match is against Brazil on Thursday, December 11.

# Pogba invests in Saudi Arabian camel racing team

**LONDON**

Paul Pogba has ventured into the world of camel racing after becoming a shareholder and ambassador for Al Haboob, a Saudi Arabian-based team. Known for being the first professional camel racing team to compete internationally, Al Haboob is making waves across the UAE and the Gulf, with Pogba now playing an integral role in its journey. The Monaco midfielder, who recently returned to professional football after serving a doping ban, has expressed his enthusiasm for the sport, which has deep cultural roots in the Middle East. "I've watched my fair share of camel races and spent time doing research to understand the techniques and strategies," Pogba said. He acknowledged the dedication required in camel racing, drawing parallels to football: "At the end of the day, sport is sport. It demands heart, sacrifice, and teamwork." Pogba, 32, is no stranger to high-pressure moments, having been the world's most expensive footballer when he transferred to Manchester United from Juventus for £89m in 2016.

# Kounde's Double Powers Barcelona to Comeback Win Over Frankfurt

**BARCELONA**

In a thrilling Champions League encounter at Camp Nou, Barcelona avenged their humiliating defeat to Eintracht Frankfurt in the 2022 Europa League, thanks to a brace from unlikely hero Jules Kounde. The French defender's two headers early in the second half sealed a 2-1 win for the Catalans, who now hope to finish in the top eight of the league phase.

Frankfurt had taken an unexpected lead in the 21st minute through Ansgar Knauff, capitalizing on a rapid counter-attack. Barcelona struggled to break down their defense in the first half, with a disallowed goal from Robert Lewandowski and a few missed opportunities, including a near-miss from Ellyes Skhiri for Frankfurt.

However, the second half saw a rejuvenated Barcelona side, aided by the introduction of Manchester United loanee Marcus Rashford. In the 50th minute, Rashford's cross found Kounde, who headed in the equalizer. Just three minutes later, Kounde struck again, nodding in a cross from Lamine Yamal, putting Barcelona in control.

Despite not adding a third goal to seal the match, Barcelona held firm, and Frankfurt failed to find an equalizer. The win lifted Barcelona to 14th in the standings, while Frankfurt languished in 30th place. Barcelona's coach Hansi Flick expressed pride in his team's resilience, though he acknowledged the challenge of playing catch-up. "The comeback shows a lot about our attitude," Flick said, "but we need to do better in taking the lead in games."

# Pressure on GILL
## as India Look to Extend Lead

India's Shubman Gill faces T20 challenge ahead of second match against South Africa

**MULLANPUR**

With India aiming to extend their dominance in the T20 series, Shubman Gill is under pressure to deliver a substantial knock in the second T20 International against South Africa today. Despite India's impressive victory in the series opener, Gill's form since his T20 comeback in September has raised questions. Since his return to the T20 setup after an impressive Test debut as captain in the UK, Gill has struggled to find consistency at the top of the order. With Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma excelling in the role, the team management has continued to show faith in Gill, despite a lack of explosive performances in recent outings. Gill's playing style contrasts with that of power hitters like Sharma, and he will need to adapt to find what works best for him in the T20 format. While India's aggressive approach has left little room for anchors in the middle order, Gill's role will be crucial to building solid partnerships, especially in the early overs. Additionally, India's captain, Suryakumar Yadav, is also facing scrutiny after a dip in form over the last year. As India prepares for the World Cup defense, the consistency of key players like Suryakumar becomes a crucial factor. The second match, to be played in the cooler environment of New Chandigarh, will see little change in the winning combination from the first game. The pitch at Mullanpur, known for producing challenging conditions during the IPL, could again be a testing ground for both teams. For South Africa, a strong comeback is necessary after their heavy loss in the opening game. The team will need to build partnerships and regain momentum if they are to challenge India in the series.

# Pandya Opens Up on Mental Strength after Injury Setbacks

**CUTTACK**

Hardik Pandya, India's dynamic all-rounder, believes that a positive mindset has been key to his comeback following injury setbacks. His return to the field after a nearly two-month hiatus due to a left quadriceps injury was marked by a match-winning performance in India's dominant 101-run win against South Africa in the first T20I on Tuesday. Pandya, who scored an unbeaten 59 off 28 balls and took 1/16 with the ball, expressed how crucial mental resilience had been during his recovery. "Injuries test you mentally, and they bring a lot of self-doubt," he said. "But I focused on coming back stronger, bigger, and better. A lot of credit goes to my loved ones for supporting me through the tough times." Pandya, who will play a vital role in India's T20 World Cup campaign in two months, emphasized that self-belief has been his driving force. "I've always believed that if you don't believe in yourself, how can others believe in you?" he said, noting that he derives confidence from within, regardless of external perceptions. The cricketer also shared his perspective on staying true to himself: "I don't sugar-coat things. It's never about what others think, it's about how I feel inside." Pandya added that he thrives on the energy of the crowd, which motivates him to perform. "You should be a rockstar. When you perform, and the crowd goes berserk, that's the biggest motivation." Pandya, who turned a hostile Mumbai crowd into fans after his T20 World Cup triumph, described his approach to challenges: "Life throws lemons at me, but I always make lemonade."

Hardik Pandya reflects on his injury recovery and the confidence that drives him

# NZ PACER Suffers Shoulder Injury, Taken To Hospital During Test vs WI

**WELLINGTON**

Seam bowler Blair Tickner was rushed to the hospital after sustaining a serious shoulder injury. Tickner, who had been instrumental in New Zealand's resurgence with the ball, was injured while attempting to dive for a ball at the boundary and fell heavily, unable to get up. Tickner was immediately attended to by medical staff and, after a tense few moments, was able to sit up before being taken away on a stretcher. New Zealand Cricket later confirmed that he had suffered a left shoulder injury. Before his departure, Tickner had claimed 4 wickets for 32 runs in 16 overs, leading the charge for New Zealand after a slow start. The West Indies had appeared to be in a strong position at 66-0, but Tickner's breakthroughs in quick succession shifted the momentum. The visitors consolidated to reach 175-4 at tea, but they crumbled after the break, losing six wickets for just 30 runs. Debutant Michael Rae supported Tickner well, taking 3-67 in 18 overs. Shai Hope top-scored for the West Indies with 48, while John Campbell (44) and Brandon King (33) also contributed. The injury-depleted New Zealand side had made two changes, with Mitchell Hay replacing Tom Blundell and Michael Rae making his Test debut in place of Matt Henry. The West Indies also had to make adjustments, with Tagenarine Chanderpaul ruled out due to injury and replaced by King, while Kavem Hodge and Anderson Phillip also came in for Alick Athanaze and Johann Layne. The series, which was tied 0-0 after the drawn first Test in Christchurch, continues with the third match starting December 18 in Mount Maunganui.

# IPL Valuation Drops 20% in 2025; RCB Overtakes CSK after Maiden Title

**MUMBAI**

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has seen its brand value plummet by 20% in 2025, dropping to $9.6 billion from $12 billion in 2024, according to a report.

The sharp decline is largely attributed to the geopolitical tensions in the region, particularly the disruption caused by India's Operation Sindoor in May, which forced the suspension of the league midway through the season. The suspension, coupled with other factors such as uncertainty surrounding the future of the mega-auction and a ban on real-money gaming sponsorships, contributed to the IPL's decreased valuation.

This marks only the second year in Brand Finance's history where the IPL's brand value has seen a dip.

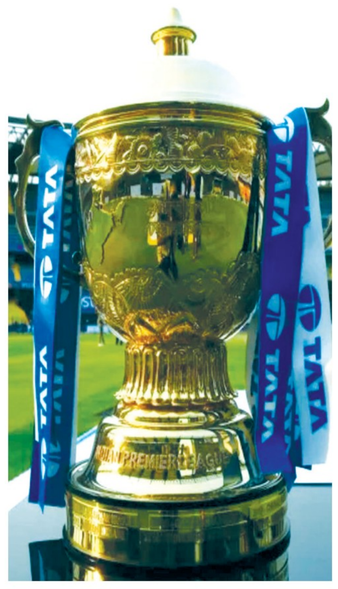
On the team front, the defending champions, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), surged ahead of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to claim the second spot in the rankings after their first-ever IPL title. Despite this achievement, RCB's valuation fell by 10% to $105 million, reflecting the broader trend of declining brand values across the league.

Other teams, including Punjab Kings, Lucknow Super Giants, and Delhi Capitals, also experienced fluctuating valuations due to varying performances in the 2025 season.

The third and final Test of the IPL season will take place in 2026, as the league seeks to recover from its challenges.

**TEAM VALUATIONS:**

- **Mumbai Indians** ($108 million): Despite a 9% drop, Mumbai remains the most valuable IPL franchise, bolstered by strong commercial partnerships and fan loyalty.
- **RCB** ($105 million): RCB's historic title win pushed them to second place, although their valuation dropped.
- **CSK** ($93 million): A 24% drop in valuation followed their worst-ever finish at the bottom of the table.
- **Kolkata Knight Riders** ($74 million): A 33% decline due to poor performance after their 2024 championship win.
- **Gujarat Titans** ($70 million): The only team to see positive growth, moving up to fifth spot.



# Sky's Leadership and Adaptability Key to India's Success, Says Dale Steyn

**CUTTACK**

Former South African pace legend Dale Steyn has lauded Suryakumar Yadav's leadership qualities, highlighting how his willingness to adjust for the greater good has brought out the best in his teammates. Steyn believes that Yadav's "secure and welcoming" captaincy has helped foster an environment where players feel backed and are willing to adapt to match situations.

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir has emphasized the importance of flexibility and dynamism in the team's approach, leading to experimental changes in the batting lineup. Yadav himself has shuffled between the No.3 and No.4 positions in recent matches, with the most recent instance being in the opening T20I against South Africa, where he came in at one down. "When you have the backing of your team and feel comfortable in your environment, you can have open conversations with your players," Steyn said. "A captain who's secure, welcoming, and willing to adjust for the greater good—someone who focuses on what's best for the individual and the team—brings out the best in his players." Steyn also emphasized the importance of a captain who can make tough calls, like moving a player down the order, knowing the team will support him due to past backing. "That's a fantastic skill and a great leadership quality," Steyn added. Yadav's leadership style, focused on team-first thinking and adaptability, has resonated with the Indian squad, contributing to their cohesive performances on the field. This approach has been integral in fostering a high-performing, flexible team dynamic under his captaincy.

# FIFA President Accused of Ethics Breach over Trump's FIFA Peace Prize

**LONDON**

Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA, is facing allegations of breaching the organization's ethics regulations after a controversial incident during last week's 2026 World Cup draw. A complaint was filed with FIFA's Ethics Committee by the non-profit group FairSquare, citing concerns over Infantino's lack of impartiality and the political nature of the event.

At the center of the complaint is Infantino's lavish praise of U.S. President Donald Trump, who was honored with FIFA's newly introduced Peace Prize. Infantino presented Trump with a gold trophy, gold medal, and a certificate during the ceremony held at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. FIFA's Peace Prize is intended to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions toward peace, and a video played during the event highlighted Trump's diplomatic efforts, including his role in brokering ceasefires and fostering diplomatic engagements.

FairSquare, a group focused on accountability in sports, claims that Infantino's actions violate FIFA's longstanding policy of neutrality in political matters. The group highlighted FIFA's rules, which mandate impartiality in dealings with government institutions and pointed to Infantino's public lobbying earlier this year for Trump to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

# Under-19 Cricket Coach Attacked in Puducherry Over Selection Dispute

**PUDUCHERRY**

An under-19 cricket coach in Puducherry, S. Venkataraman, was brutally assaulted at the Cricket Association of Puducherry (CAP) grounds by three local cricketers over their non-selection for the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. The attack has led to an attempted murder charge, and police have launched a manhunt for the suspects. According to police, the assault occurred when Venkataraman was supervising practice sessions. The accused—identified as Karthikayan, Arvindraj, and Santosh Kumaran—reportedly confronted the coach over their exclusion from the tournament squad. The confrontation quickly escalated, with the three allegedly attacking Venkataraman with a cricket bat, delivering multiple blows before fleeing the scene. A senior police officer described the assault as "premeditated and extremely violent," confirming that Venkataraman suffered a shoulder fracture, rib cage injuries, and a deep forehead gash that required 20 stitches. He is currently undergoing treatment. The police have registered an attempt-to-murder case and are actively searching for the suspects, who remain absconding. The attack, carried out in a premier cricket facility, has caused shockwaves in local cricket circles.

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